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After brief communal violence

# Ahmedabad returns to normalcy

By Thomas Abraham  
Arab Times correspondent

AHMEDABAD, April 16: After a brief spell of communal violence, Ahmedabad, Baroda and some other parts of Gujarat are fast returning to normalcy.

## Punjab violence

See Page 7

Violence began from the small town of Anand in central Gujarat mid-March and soon spread to other areas like Patna, Bharuch, Ahmedabad and Baroda, by the end of last week, the violence had claimed some 66 lives, 41 of them in Ahmedabad alone and 17 in Baroda. More than 280 others had been injured, 125 of them seriously.

When this correspondent visited Ahmedabad on Saturday, he found that conditions were near normal in all the affected areas, where only a night curfew continued as a precautionary measure. Baroda, one was told, continued to be a little tense but only stray incidents had been reported from there in the last three days.

Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Saeed made a quick tour of the affected areas on Saturday and urged the state government to take stern measures against those found guilty of indulging in violence.

## Rajiv reshuffles Congress (I) committee

By Thomas Abraham  
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, April 16: Congress President Rajiv Gandhi has effected a major shake-up in the All India Congress Committee (AICC) to strengthen the party and prepare it for the tasks ahead.

Former Lok Sabha speaker Balram Jakhar and former central ministers H.K.L. Bhagat, C.K. Jafar Sharief and Mahabir Prasad are the new AICC general secretaries.

Ramesh Chennithala, who earlier had the distinction of becoming the youngest minister ever in Kerala, has been appointed the new

president of the Indian Youth Congress, succeeding Mukul Wasnik.

Sushil Kumar Shinde, Girdhar Gomango and Rajendra Bajpai will be the presidents of the party's state units in Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Hiteswar Saikia is the new chief of the Assam Congress unit.

Former Planning minister Madhavsingh Solanki has been named head of the party's policy planning committee, in which Vasant Sathe and Pranab Mukherjee are members.

Outgoing AICC general Secretary Vithal Gadgil will be the official spokesman of the party, with former journalist and now MP

M.J. Akbar to assist him. Other outgoing general secretaries Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sheila Kaul and K.N. Singh will constitute the party's disciplinary committee, which will be headed by Maragatham Chandrashekhar. Former external affairs minister R.V. Narasimha Rao will be in charge of foreign affairs in the party set-up.

The changes were imminent for a long time. Since the defeat the party suffered in the general elections last November, Rajiv has been applying his mind to the reorganisation, which acquired some urgency when the Congress continued to suffer reverses in the assembly elections that followed.

He met a large number of delegations and also visited the camps where some three thousand people from different localities had taken refuge, fearing attacks. Saeed also visited the injured at the city hospitals.

Later, Saeed told reporters that he was satisfied with the manner in which the state government was able to bring the situation under control in a few days because violence in Ahmedabad was known to last for upto three or four weeks in the least. Incidentally, this was the first time in three years that Ahmedabad was witnessing violence. The violence broke out within weeks of Janata Dal leader Chimanbhai Patel assum-

ing office as chief minister at the head of a coalition government in which BJP is also a partner.

Communal violence is a problem that has plagued several parts of Gujarat for years. The clashes are often sparked off by incidents of no consequence indicating an underlying current of tensions among the two communities.

The factors could be economic, political and social. One of the problems, this reporter gathered, is the distress sale of property forced on property owners by land-sharks in violence-prone areas. There is a feeling that putting a ban on sale of properties in such sensitive areas without the permission of

the designated authorities would help in eliminating one of the factors leading to frequent violence.

Accordingly, the Gujarat government is now planning to enact a law towards this end.

Another factor is believed to be the huge illicit trade in liquor in Gujarat, where prohibition has been in force for years. After Patel became chief minister, there has been an effort to curb the activities of bootleggers, gamblers and other anti-social elements. A senior official said these efforts virtually created panic among the bootleggers, who in turn try to mount pressure on the government by sparking off violence. This theory is

further strengthened by the fact that many of the stabbings carried out during the violence had a professional touch, the officials said.

The government is trying to trace each killing to its origin and nab the culprits. Thousands of people have been put behind bars, many of them under the dreaded Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (Tada). In fact, Patel had made a big issue of the use of Tada by the previous government to curb communal violence and it was a major talking point during his election campaign. At a press conference, he told reporters that though he had opposed its use in the past, he had found it a most useful weapon.



Bengali New Year

Thousands of men, women and children staged a joyful street march in Dhaka on April 15 to welcome the Bengali New Year. The New Year's day is one of the most auspicious occasions in both Bangladesh and Indian state of West Bengal. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Benazir flies to Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD, April 16, (Reuters): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left for a Muslim pilgrimage today, a move which diplomats say suggests she is not worried by renewed tensions with India over Kashmir state.

A 45-member entourage, which included the prime minister's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, senior cabinet minister and high-ranking military officials, accompanied Benazir on the special flight to Jeddah.

Diplomats said Benazir's decision to leave the country suggested Pakistan does not see an immediate threat of war.

She will visit the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia for two to three days, government officials said.

There was no immediate information whether Benazir would hold talks with Saudi Arabian leaders. She met King Fahd when she went to Saudi Arabia in January 1989 on a similar pilgrimage.

Benazir visited Mecca shortly after she became the first woman leader of a modern Muslim nation in late 1988.

Saudi Arabia, which has close relations with Pakistan, wants India to settle the 42-year-old Kashmir dispute in the framework of United Nations resolutions on the question.

## Kashmir separatists

## Leader denies ordering deaths

WASHINGTON, April 16, (UPI): The leader of Kashmir's main armed separatist group said yesterday "it is a lie" that he had ordered the April 10 killing of three hostages in Kashmir but insisted that hostage-taking and murder are "within the rights" of Kashmiris fighting for independence from India.

"(The Indian government) said that I ordered these persons kill those hostages from American soil," said Amanullah Khan, 56, chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front. "Now the Indian government has approached the State Department that I should be deported. But it is a lie."

Speaking to United Press International by telephone from Los Angeles, Khan said Indian troops and police sent to quell Muslim separatists "had raped women and killed babies, and that gave every Kashmiri the right to retaliate."

Khan, who announced in New York on April 9, that three hostages seized in Kashmir had been killed. But when the three were indeed found dead April 10, India declared they had been killed one day after Khan's statement. India therefore charged that Khan had ordered the hostages' slaying from US soil.

The three hostages, a Hindu factory manager and an Islamic scholar and his secretary, were held by a group claiming to be the Jammu Kashmir Students Liberation Front, a student wing of Khan's group.

Khan, who holds a Pakistani passport, said he came to the United States to publicize his cause and raise funds. He hopes to meet with congressional leaders to press the United States to support Kashmiri independence.

Khan said his goal is to form an independent state by merging the Kashmir region of Pakistan and all of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said he would not negotiate with New Delhi on the possibility of granting autonomy to Muslim areas of Kashmir.

He denied his group gets weapons from Pakistan and declined to cite the number of fighters and weapons under his command. "We are available on the open market," he said of his group's arms.

Khan disputed critics who condemn the taking and killing of hostages, saying such actions are the right of his independence fighters.

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# Airlines, govts balk at bomb detector

## Machines are expensive, bulky and not foolproof

WASHINGTON, April 16 (AP) — Resistance from airlines, airports and foreign governments is hindering federal efforts to install sophisticated bomb detectors at high-risk airports.

Critics say the machines, which scan luggage with neutrons, are expensive, bulky and not foolproof. They can't be used on passengers, and in the two airports where they're installed they are inspecting only a fraction of the total luggage load.

US airlines think the government, since it is most often the target, should pay for all of the

detectors. Airports say they don't have space for the 10-ton units which are radioactive and which are about the size of a small bedroom. Some foreign governments don't trust them.

Tim Neale, spokesman for the industry's Air Transport Association, said US airlines fear check-in delays caused by the machines may steer international business travellers to foreign carriers.

But proponents say the devices should be used until better anti-terrorist technology comes

along. They cite sobering statistics to make their point: Three bombs planted aboard passenger jets killed 548 people during the past 16 months, and bombs were found or threats made affecting several other flights.

The Federal Aviation Administration has ordered US airlines to buy and install at airports scores of the thermoneutron analysis (TNA) units or any other machine that can meet its specifications. The TNA units cost nearly \$1 million.

The new technology is needed to detect plastic explosives,

which can be molded into virtually any shape and cannot normally be detected by hand or ordinary X-ray searches.

A bomb made of plastic explosives concealed in a radio-cassette recorder brought down Pan Am Flight 103 in December 1988, killing all 259 people aboard and 11 more on the ground at Lockerbie, Scotland.

Despite that and other incidents, the TNA devices are in use at only two of the 40 world airports the FAA considers most likely to be used by terrorists: Miami and New York. The FAA

is having a third unit installed next month, but is having difficulty placing others.

The TNAs put out a neutron cloud that penetrates and interacts with elements of explosives, enabling the machine to identify them.

Meanwhile, France, Japan and possibly other countries are developing competing systems. FAA officials say. And a US company has placed portable units using other technologies at some embassies and foreign airports, but only for hand-carried items and passengers.



Greta Garbo captured in the trappings of the 1940s by Sir Cecil Beaton, once her very close friend. (Reuter wirephoto)

Famed for beauty, voice, talent

## Legendary screen star Garbo dies

### Neighbours knew little of Garbo

NEW YORK, April 16 (Agencies) — Greta Garbo, the legendary screen star who turned her back on Hollywood in 1941 and became as well known for her passion for privacy as for her sculpted beauty and husky vibrato, died yesterday. She was 84.

New York hospital announces with great sadness the death of Miss Garbo," said hospital spokesman Andrew Banoff. At the family's request, he provided no other information other than that she died yesterday.

The Swedish-born star began her career in silent films and reigned as the supreme movie queen throughout the '30s. Some critics considered her the finest screen actress of all time.

With her finely-chiselled features, high cheekbones, penetrating blue eyes and swan-like neck, allied with a rare acting talent, the Garbo name was box-office magic in the 1930s and early 40s.

Garbo is best remembered for portraying world-weary women caught in ill-fated love affairs. She was the mysterious femme fatale in the floppy hats, almost always wearing sunglasses.

Garbo won critical acclaim for such roles as Mata Hari in the film of the same name. Anna in the screen adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's classic play "Anna Christie," and Gursinskaya in "Grand Hotel."

She was nominated for an Academy award three times, but never won one. However, in 1954, she was given a special Oscar "for her unforgettable screen performances."

After her retirement at age 36, Miss Garbo never acted again, but her luminous performances in 24 films kept her name alive and made her a favourite of younger generations.

While "Camille," and "Ninotchka" became film festival staples, the woman known worldwide simply as "Garbo" remained shuttered in her New York City apartment or at various retreats in France and



An intimate portrait — Garbo glances in the direction of the photographer as she begins to suspect that shutters are clicking.

Switzerland. She suffered little illness throughout most of her life, and was a health enthusiast who enjoyed long walks.

When she travelled it was with the air of a phantom, slipping in and out of airports, wearing dark glasses and a hat pulled down.

Her most-remembered line was in "Grand Hotel" when she said, "I want to be alone."

In comments published in Life

magazine in 1989, Garbo described herself as a "sour little creature."

Rumours of love affairs were plentiful, but she never married and in her later years allowed only a few long-time friends to penetrate her solitude.

She was born Greta Lovisa Gustafsson in Stockholm on Sept 18, 1905, the daughter of an uneducated labourer who was often ill or unemployed. After her father died when she was 14, she left school to become a bar-

ber's helper and later a department store clerk, where she occasionally modelled hats.

Appearances in advertisements won her a part in a film commercial and led to a screen test by Swedish comedy director Eric Petcher. This in turn brought some slapstick comic roles and Greta began to take acting seriously. She decided to learn her trade.

The late Mauritz Stiller, a well-known film director, came scouting for talent to fill the parts in his

new film "The Atonement of Gosta Berling" and spotted Greta.

She was asked later to take the leading part in "The Joyless Street" and this time Stiller, who was to prove her devoted friend, acted as her manager.

Stiller gave Garbo her screen name. When he was offered a contract to go to Hollywood by Metro-Goldwyn Mayer, he made it conditional that the young star should go with him.

"The Torrent," "The Temptress" and "The Fish and The Devil" followed between 1925 and 1929. In later years, she made "Romance," "Susan Lennox," "Queen Christina," "Camille" and "Ninotchka."

In his biography "Garbo," John Bainbridge wrote: "Her beauty is ageless. So is her legend. It prospers with every passing year. She does nothing to nourish it, except to go on being her elusive self, which seems to be quite enough."

## Beauty queen from Hell crowned

LOS ANGELES, April 16, (UPI) — A red-haired Norwegian student-model with aspirations to become a nurse in Africa was crowned Miss Universe last night at the 39th annual pageant.

Mona Grudt, called by her fellow contestants "the beauty queen from Hell" because she is from Hell, Norway, was chosen over 70 other women.

The first black American contestant, Carole Gist, 20, was first runner-up in a contest dominated but not won by Latin American aspirants. Miss Colombia, Liseth Mahecha, was second runner-up among the 71 contestants from 70 nations and Puerto Rico.

### Contest

Rounding out six semi-finalists were the contestants from Bolivia, Mexico, and Chile.

"I want to be a nurse and work in Africa. In my own country there are so many nurses, but if I could go to Africa I could help all of the poor children," said Grudt, 19.

This year's pageant was marked by a more political tone, included the first Soviet contestant, Evia Stalbovska, 18, a doctor's assistant from Riga, Latvia, who was not among the final 10.

Mahecha, 18, discussed her country's cocaine wars, saying, "This problem, although ours, is not only ours. It's something that concerns everyone and if nations work together we can solve the problem and stop drugs."

The winner, who receives a prize package worth nearly \$250,000, is 5-foot-6 (1.68m) with green eyes and listed Rock Hudson as her favourite movie star.

### Globe

The pageant was carried live on CBS television in America and across the globe to an estimated audience of 500 million people.

Hosted by Dick Clark and Leiza Gibbons, the annual contest was held at the Shubert Theatre. Last year's winner, Angela Visser of Holland, was on hand to crown her successor.

"The changes in the world, the new openness, are what brought me here, and I'm very proud to be a small part of it. If not for Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost, I would not be here," Stalbovska said in an interview before the show.

During the week preceding the show, Stalbovska, who speaks little English, became friends with Miss Israel, Yvonne Krugliak, who translated for her. The two women were born five days apart in the same Latvian hospital. Krugliak's parents later emigrated to Israel.



Hot-air balloon

1989 world champion balloonist Benedikt Haggen was the only one to start off on the last East German hot-air balloon meeting in Anklam. Others were unable to leave due to strong winds. The meeting was staged at the birthplace of the German aviation Otto Lilienthal.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

DENVER, Colorado: First, the Denver zoo banned animal feeding. Then a halt was put to "exploitative" rides on elephants and camels. Now, an animal-rights group wants to stop balloon sales.

"Drifting balloons can find their way into many of the open-air enclosures and can cause great harm, even death, to unsuspecting animals who might ingest them," the Rocky Mountain Humane Society wrote in a February 6 letter to the zoo.

The zoo's board of trustees stopped elephant and camel rides this week after the Humane Society charged animals were being exploited for human pleasure and greed.

But enough is enough, zoo spokesman Tom Peterson said.

"We've never had a problem with balloons here," said Peterson. "A lot of people are asking, 'what will be left for the kids to do that's fun?'"

Robin Duxbury, a Humane Society member, said balloons are overrated.

"What kind of lasting pleasure do kids get out of balloons anyway?" she said. "Kids scream for them and their parents buy them to shut them up."

MCLEAN, Virginia: Yulia Sukhanova is capitalizing on her victory in the first Miss USSR pageant by making a yogurt commercial for US television. "She did the commercial because she wanted to dispel American attitudes that Russian women aren't beautiful," said Tricia Erickson, owner of the Erickson Agency, a McLean-based modeling agency handling Miss Sukhanova's career.

The advertisement for Dreyer's and Edy's frozen yogurt inspirations is being aired in nine major US cities. Miss Sukhanova, 17, was chosen Miss USSR last year.

PARK RIVER, North Dakota: Dale Holand has to stay healthy about three more weeks to graduate from high school with a perfect attendance record in 12 years of school.

He is trying to best the records of his older brother and sister, both of whom missed one day each in their school careers.

"My brother missed a day in kindergarten for some reason," said the 18-year-old Holand. "My sister is still mad at my mom for making her go to the hospital and miss one day. I'll beat them both."

Holand's classmates are a bit baffled by his perfection record.

"You'd think he was sick, just one day," said classmate Dennis Flaten.

Holand says sickness usually befalls him at the holidays.

"Mostly around Christmas," he says.

Holand's father, Richard Holand, is the elementary school principal in Park River. Post-graduation plans are not firm, Holand said. He is considering going to college.

"I might not do anything, for a while. All those days of school without missing, I'll have some catching up to do," Holand said.

SEATTLE, Washington: It took nine years for 75-year-old Benjamin Blakeman IV and his wife, Mary Lou, to have one baby — then another and another.

Mrs Blakeman, 37, delivered triplets, two girls and a boy, Sunday at Swedish hospital medical centre.

"These babies are both a blessing and a reward after nine years of trying," she said. "We'd like to encourage people who are trying and to tell them to stick with it."

The pregnancy was assisted by the reproductive genetics group of Swedish hospital medical centre. More than 150 babies have been born with the group since it began offering assisted reproductive techniques, such as in vitro fertilization, in 1978.

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania's honorary highway safety month chairman is a man who routinely drives faster than 200 miles an hour (322 kph per hour) and has been in more than 100 car crashes.

But when champion race car driver Richard Petty leaves the racetrack, he says he obeys speed limits and drives smart.

The seven-time Daytona 500 winner came to the capitol on Thursday to endorse Pennsylvania's new highway safety campaign.

"There's nobody in the world who has wrecked more cars than me," Petty said. He added that he has "always been interested in the safety deal" and noted that he has six grandchildren to think about when speeding around the racetrack.

"We want everybody to be aware that safety is everybody's job," said Petty, whose 200 NASCAR victories is a record. "I drive safely at 200 miles per hour and I'm asking people to drive safely at 55 or below."

But Petty did endorse a 65 mph (104.8 kph) speed limit for rural interstate highways in Pennsylvania, a position opposed by Gov. Robert P. Casey.



Easter Sunday parade

Ivana Trump, estranged wife of billionaire Donald Trump smiles at photographer as she poses outside the Trump Plaza in New York on April 15. Ivana held an Easter Sunday parade at the hotel. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Science church goes on trial

### Guilty of manslaughter

BOSTON, April 16, (AP) — The Christian Science Church says its right to exist goes on trial this week, when a jury determines if two church members are guilty of manslaughter for relying on prayer alone to heal their 2-1/2-year-old son.

The prosecution will argue that David said, Ginger Twitchell's son, Robyn, might be alive today had his parents sought medical attention for his bowel obstruction.

The Twitchells' attorney, Rikki Klieman, said she will argue that her clients, far from acting recklessly, sought a cure dictated by their most deeply held beliefs.

"There has been little consensus among state courts around the country faced with similar cases," a Los Angeles judge in February acquitted Eliot and Lise Glaser, a Christian scientist couple, of involuntary manslaughter in the meningitis death of their 15-month-old daughter, but convicted them of child endangerment.

In August 1989, northern California jury acquitted Christian scientists Mark Ripberger and Susan Middleton of manslaughter charges in the meningitis death of their 15-month-old daughter, but convicted them of child endangerment.

In Sarasota, Florida, a Christian scientist husband and wife received probation for their April 1989 conviction for third-degree murder. Their diabetic seven-year-old daughter had died without receiving medical attention.

The US Supreme Court, with the constitutional power to set nationwide rules on the issue, typically has refused to hear such cases.

On Tuesday, almost four years after Robyn Twitchell's death, his parents go on trial in Suffolk

district court in Boston, world headquarters of the Christian Science Church.

A week before the trial was to begin, the church took out full-page ads in several Massachusetts newspapers to discuss the case and explain church doctrine. "Why is prayer being prosecuted in Boston?" the church asked.

John Kiernan, a special assistant district attorney, denies the case is an attack on Christian science or a repudiation of spiritual healing. He said it has nothing to do with freedom of religion.

"We are advocates of children," he said. "We are not persecutors of religious beliefs."

Religious "practice is subject to regulation by the state. Belief is not," Kiernan said.

Kiernan argued that an adult may choose to forgo conventional medical treatment, but a child is not in a position to make such a decision.

By relying exclusively on Christian science healing, the Twitchells acted with reckless disregard for the health of their son, Kiernan said. The state, he contends, has a duty to protect children.

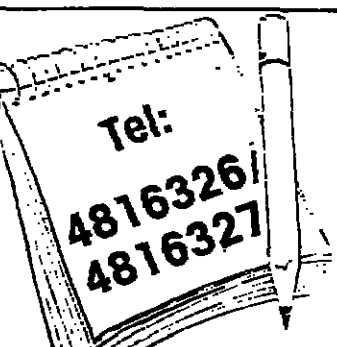
When Robyn fell ill, apparently with the flu, the Twitchells followed church teaching and called a Christian scientist practitioner and Christian scientist nurse to treat him, said church spokesman Nathan Talbot.

After four days in which the illness "ebbed and flowed," Kiernan said, the boy appeared to get better. A day before he died, she said, he went outside to play.

The church, founded in 1879 by Mary Baker Eddy, believes that physical disease, like sin, can be healed by spiritual means alone.

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**Andean leaders ride**

Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora (left) and his Argentine counterpart Carlos Menem enjoys a horse ride in the afternoon of April 14. Menem was invited for Zamora's birthday celebration. The Andean leaders visited areas, which were battlefields in the independence war against Spain's crown in the eighteenth century. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Bogota barons turn on Escobar

BOGOTA, April 16. (Reuters): Colombian drug barons yesterday blamed their leader Pablo Escobar for a wave of violence and said they rejected his actions, according to a statement received by a local radio station.

If authentic, the statement indicates major divisions among the drug traffickers, who have waged an eight-month-old war against the state.

The statement purportedly from the Extraditables, a shadowy group of drug barons wanted in the United States, said Escobar had ordered the placing of a car bomb which exploded near Medellin last Wednesday, killing eight policemen and up to 15 civilians.

Escobar is reputed head of the Medellin cocaine cartel and one of the leaders of the Extraditables. He is the Colombian drug baron most wanted in the United States.

"We Extraditables do not agree with the terrorist acts that Pablo Escobar has ordered indiscriminately and in a personal capacity," the statement said.

"We Extraditables reject publicly before the Colombian people the conduct of Pablo Escobar which goes against the goal of our struggle which is for trial in our fatherland," it said.

The statement said the Extraditables rejected the violent way Escobar "forces us to pay the bills for his personal war. For which he kidnaps, tortures and threatens our families."

"As from now, we declare ourselves in complete disagreement with the terrorist acts ordered personally by Pablo Escobar," it said.

The statement was in the same form as a normal Extraditables statement and carried the traditional letterhead — "We prefer a tomb in Colombia to a prison in the United States."

But it was received by a radio station in Bogota and not by news organisations in Medellin as usual.

Police chiefs repeatedly said last week that Escobar, who has escaped arrest for months, was growing increasingly isolated and predicted he would soon be captured.

The police accused him of masterminding a campaign of bombings and assassinations which have killed 240 people since August when the state cracked down on the illegal drug trade.

It said the explosion of the car bomb last week, a bomb defused in Bogota and the abduction of a senator were acts carried out personally by Escobar.

The Extraditables said they had not been consulted about previous statements issued in their name which had been published by Escobar.

If authentic, the statement would indicate serious divisions among the drug barons and give the authorities an advantage in the drug war.

Colombia's drug trafficking barons appear to be deeply divided over tactics of bombing and assassination that have killed more than 240 people in an eight-month war against the state.

## Judge defends proceedings

Ferry disaster inquiry

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, April 16. (AP): The judge in the marine inquiry into the Scandinavian sea ferry disaster rejected charges yesterday the proceedings were being improperly conducted.

Authorities said 160 people are missing and presumed to have died in the blaze, which police are investigating as a case of arson. Police in Oslo, Norway said that one person is still unaccounted for.

"The 20-year-old ferry caught fire April 7 in Swedish waters on an overnight trip from Norway to Denmark."

"The proceedings are continuing in a correct and harmonious way," said marine and trade court president Frank Poulsen, the judge heading the inquiry.

The judge said the purpose of the inquiry was to expose the facts in the case. Criminal charges cannot arise from the inquiry, but witnesses are under oath and have been warned that their testimony could be used in any subsequent criminal case.

Seamen's unions in Norway and Sweden have criticised the hearings, now in their fifth day, because attorneys for the ship-owners were dominating the questioning of witnesses, and because the captain has been allowed to attend all sessions.

The Norwegian captain, Hugo Larsen, who was the first witness, admitted that he abandoned the

burning ship while some passengers remained alive on board.

"We are on the borderland of parody when representatives of the ferry owners are the ones asking questions during the inquiry," Norwegian Seaman's Union leader Gudmund Asheim told the Norwegian news agency NTB.

Poulsen said the inquiry came at the request of the Danish ship-owners, VR D-No Lines, and that the presence of its representatives was required by law.

Representatives of the ferry's insurers, Scandinavian marine authorities said Norwegian and Danish police are also taking part in the inquiry, which has continued through the Easter holiday.

About half of the list of 30 witnesses have been heard.

A joint commission of Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Maritime officials also is scheduled to hold hearings on the case following the Copenhagen inquiry.

Manuel Martins, the second engineer, told the marine inquiry in Copenhagen that the atmosphere between the 16 men in the engine room was "tense" during the week before the fire.

He, along with his Portuguese colleagues had language difficulties with the Filipino machinists, Martins said. The chief engineer was a West German.

## Queen's birthday

Margrethe turns 50

COPENHAGEN, April 16. (AP): Queen Margrethe II, the talented artist and popular head of Europe's oldest ruling monarchy, celebrated her 50th birthday today with old-style regal pomp.

The Danes, despite their egalitarianism and cradle-to-grave welfare society, consider the monarchy sacred.

She is, in some ways, a reluctant monarch, which may contribute to her immense popularity. Some say she would probably win a presidential election if the kingdom were a republic.

The normally irreverent Danes show her uncharacteristic deference. The press voluntarily refrains from publishing unflattering pictures of the six-foot-tall (1.8-metre-tall), chain-smoking queen with unfilleted Greek cigarettes dangling from her mouth.

But the media have not shown the same respect for her French-born husband, Prince Consort Henrik, or her two sons, Crown Prince Frederik, 21, and Prince Joachim, 20.

Henrik's wish for a separate state allowance, or appanage, blew up into a political storm five years ago when it was the target of newspaper campaigns. But he got it in the end.

The tabloid press and weeklies constantly dog the two princes for juicy gossip pieces and frequent speculations about royal marriages.

The queen does not rule out the possibility of her sons marrying commoners. "What I hope for my boys is that whoever they marry that their wives will make them happy, both in their lives and in their jobs," Margrethe said recently.

The events honouring the queen's birthday began April 1 and continue for the rest of the month.

This morning she is greeted by serenaders beneath the windows of her summer palace, Fredensborg, north of Copenhagen.

At noon at the royal residence in Copenhagen, Amalienborg palace, red-uniformed royal guards will present arms in a colourful, traditional ceremony followed by a parade in the palace courtyard.

In the afternoon the queen and the royal family will be driven by carriage through Copenhagen, escorted by mounted husars.

The day ends with a banquet at Christiansborg palace, the seat of Denmark's Parliament, attended by Nordic royalty, heads of state and Danish high society.

Margrethe is descended from the oldest ruling dynasty in Europe, the House of Oldenburg, which took the throne in 1448. Virtually every royal family in Europe has Danish lineage.

## Argentina's charismatic ex-army colonel trying to seize power by ballot box

BUENOS AIRES, April 16. (AP): After failing to overthrow the government in two military uprisings, a charismatic ex-army colonel is now trying to seize power by the ballot box.

Aldo Rico held a recent rally at a dingy gymnasium, where a crowd of about 1,000 heard him say he wants to mobilize Argentines disenchanted with the policies of President Carlos Menem.

"It was thrilling," Rico said moments after hundreds of voices shouted "viva," in response to his closing cry, "Viva la Patria" (long live the fatherland). "That's only the second time I've spoken in front of a large crowd."

Rico, 47, has been a factor in Argentine political life since April 1987, when he spearheaded military opposition

# IRA won't quit anti-British fight

BELFAST, April 16. (UPI): The Irish Republican army will not lay down its arms until British forces withdraw from Ireland, the IRA's political leader said at an Easter Sunday rally commemorating a 1916 anti-British uprising.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, said Irish Republicans "will be free" remains stronger than the desire of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government to stay in Ireland.

"The Republican struggle would last as long as British occupation and partition of our country lasts," Adams said at a rally at Belfast's Milltown cemetery.

"We have something Mrs Thatcher and her cronies do not possess."

"We have a will to be free which is stronger than their will to remain in our country," Adams said.

One man surrounded by Sinn Fein activists read a statement from the IRA that said the guerrilla organisation is prepared to hold peace talks with British government officials, but only if there are no conditions.

The Milltown rally was one of dozens that

draw thousands of Republicans throughout Ireland to commemorate the Dublin uprising of Easter 1916, when the IRA mounted a military campaign to drive British forces out of Ireland.

The battle, which was fought by civilian volunteers against British soldiers, triggered a series of violent clashes that led Britain in 1920 to withdraw from 26 of Ireland's 32 counties.

The IRA's 20-year-old campaign of violence has been waged in an effort to force Britain to leave the remaining six counties in Northern Ireland, where two-thirds of the 1.5 million inhabitants are Protestant and demand to remain British.

About 30,000 members of the British security forces based in Northern Ireland were on full alert Sunday in anticipation of an Easter Sunday attack by the IRA, police said.

Minor rioting broke out in Belfast on Saturday night, but security forces used tear gas and profile tactics to quell the disturbances before they escalated, police said.

Republicans learning of bomb attacks by British paramilitary groups also announced their own security operations where demonstrations took place, police said.

## Debate on global warming

Six win \$60,000 environmental prizes

WASHINGTON, April 16. (AP): President George Bush will ask a 17-nation conference this week to examine the economic impact of global warming, but the administration plans to argue it's too early to propose specific solutions, officials say.

That cautious approach is expected to unleash renewed criticism from some European officials who say the United States is failing to provide leadership in dealing with the fear that man-made pollutants are causing the earth to become warmer, a process known as the Greenhouse effect.

The Bush administration has maintained that while there is wide-

spread agreement on the Greenhouse effect, there remain too many unanswered questions to warrant pollution controls that could have great economic implications.

The president is hosting a White House conference on the Greenhouse effect tomorrow, just days before next Sunday's Earth Day observance. During his 1988 campaign, Bush said such a conference was a top priority and would be held in his first year as president.

Senior advisers on economics, science and the environment from 17 nations plan to attend, making it the first gathering on the subject with

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### America

**US, Soviet aging exchange:** US and Soviet specialists will share expertise in elderly care under an exchange programme that starts this week.

Three Soviets were to arrive in Chicago on Tuesday and for the next several months collaborate with doctors at the centre on aging at Northwestern's McGaw Medical Centre. Northwestern researchers will travel to Kiev later this year. (AP)

**First black president for Harvard:** His boyhood friends in Indonesia were street peddlers, and his grandmother still lives in a mud-walled house in Kenya. Barack Obama is another world away, presiding over the Harvard Law Review as the first black president in the prestigious journal's 103-year history.

The charismatic 28-year-old, ensconced in the halls of power and tradition, evinces an affinity with the underdog.

"I lived in a country where I saw extreme poverty at a very early age," Obama said. "Parts of my family in Kenya remain very poor. My grandmother still lives in a mud-walled house with no running water or electricity."

"That's who I am, that's where I came from, not always literally, but at least emotionally," he said. (AP)

**Supremacists return:** Young white-supremacist Skinheads plan to return to Idaho to honour Adolf Hitler on Friday, a week after the state gave final approval to a law making Martin Luther King Jr's birthday a state holiday.

The Neo-Nazi Aryan nations church is sponsoring its second annual "Aryan Youth Action Conference" next weekend for US and Canadian Skinheads, and like last year the event is timed to coincide with Hitler's birthday. (UPI)

**Chinatown protests freeway plan:** Chinatown, normally jammed with tourists, has been suffering financially since October's earthquake smashed one of the main highways leading to the maze of crowded streets and bustling shops.

So when Mayor Art Agnos suggested the crippled embarcadero freeway be destroyed instead of repaired, with a new road built at ground level or underground, merchants decided they had enough.

Activist Rose Pak of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce is leading the fight to rebuild the 1.7-mile (2.7-km) freeway. At her urging, hundreds of the Chinatown merchants planned to lock their doors Monday and show up at a board of supervisors meeting where the freeway's fate was expected to be decided. (AP)

**Fallout shelter leak:** Up to 19,000 gallons (72,000 litres) of fuel are believed to have leaked near Yellowstone National park from a fallout shelter built by a religious group girding for nuclear armageddon.

Workers on Sunday began pumping out gasoline and the diesel from the underground tanks, while furious local residents said their fears of an environmental disaster were borne out by the leaks. (AP)

**Ibuprofen can cause kidney failure:** Over-the-counter doses of the popular pain reliever ibuprofen can cause kidney failure in people with mild kidney disease, according to a group of medical researchers.

A three-year study on the drug is detailed in Sunday's annals of internal medicine. (AP)

**Hugo wounds slowly healing:** The physical wounds left by hurricane Hugo are slowly healing, but domestic strife and other signs of stress are on the rise among South Carolina survivors of the killer storm.

Counselors and psychologists say some of the deepest emotional wounds are only now emerging and may plague survivors for years. (AP)



**Reviewing troops**

A Colombian Army officer reviews some of the 600 troops, who arrived in Medellin to reinforce police in an effort to prevent more drug-related violence. More than 30 policemen have been killed in the last month, after the drug barons pledged to step up their war against the authorities. (Reuters wirephoto)



**Princess and boyfriend**

Princess Stephanie of Monaco and her French boyfriend Jean Yves de Fur were present at the world boxing championship between Italian Gianfranco Rosi and American Kevin Daigle in Monaco on April 14. (Reuters wirephoto)



**Contra attacks reported:** Nicaraguan Contras rebels seized a section of highway within 100km (60 miles) of Managua during holy week, but were repelled by government forces, the Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

The US-backed Contras, whose eight-year war against the leftist Sandinista government never directly threatened the capital, took over a section of the Pan-American highway near San Isidro on Tuesday and Wednesday, the ministry said in a statement.

It said three rebels and one Sandinista soldier were killed on Wednesday in combat in Trinidad, 10 km (seven miles) north of San Isidro. Two other Sandinista soldiers were wounded. (Reuters)

**Ex-Panamanian president, dies:** Marcos Aurelio Robles, a former president of Panama who oversaw the construction of a part of the Pan-American highway, died in Miami, family members said Sunday. He was 84.

Family members say Robles died Saturday after a long illness, but they did not specify the cause of death.

Robles was elected president in 1964. He was succeeded in 1968 by Arnulfo Arias, the last elected President of Panama before a military coup Oct 11 that year led by Gen. Omar Torrijos. Robles fled to Miami after the military overthrow. (AP)

**Rebels kill 11 in Peru:** A truck carrying policemen to guard power pylons against guerrilla sabotage hit a land mine Sunday, killing seven of the officers, officials said in Lima, Peru.

Police said Maoist Shining Path guerrillas had planted the mine in a road that winds through the Andes mountains 40 miles (60 kilometres) east of Lima, near the town of Chosica.

## British prison blaze put out

MANCHESTER, April 16. (AP): Rebellious inmates at Strangeways prison set off a fire early today on the first day of their uprising, but prison officials managed to extinguish the blaze, said a spokesman.

There was no indication any of the estimated 1,500 prisoners still on the loose at the facility had been injured in the blaze, said a spokesman at the Home Office, the government department in charge of prisons.

"There was a danger to both the prison officers and inmates to fight the fire and the inmates on the roof," said the spokesman.

The fire started around 2:20 am (0120 GMT) and was put out within about an hour, said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity. Before the fire was extinguished, heavy smoke could be seen billowing from the building.

More than 1,500 prisoners noted at the overcrowded prison April 1 and caused "severe damage to the buildings. Most surrendered in the first days but a hard core of about two dozen remained at large in the prison, dwindling day by day to the dozen estimated holding out yesterday."

The cause of the riot has not been determined and an investigation is being conducted.

The remaining prisoners vowed yesterday to hold out for another week. They also claimed that fellow inmates who had surrendered were being ill-treated by authorities.

The claim, scrawled in chalk on a large board that prisoners held up to friends, relatives and sightseers in the streets below, said: "We was coming down today but because some of the boys departing last week got broken arms and legs we are staying one more week."

Prison spokesman Ian Lockwood told a news conference outside the prison walls: "We categorically deny that there has been any action against prisoners who have come down. We can't speculate where they have heard these reports."

He said prisoners who surrendered were being observed by independent witnesses.

A Home Office spokesman said there were "no structured negotiations" between warders and the prisoners.

Hungry and dirty prisoners on the steep roof of the Victorian jail held up a board with a chalked message saying "No more negotiations."

## Cheney's rebuff to Moscow

NEW YORK, April 16. (Reuters): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has rebuffed a Soviet suggestion that the Bush administration's new strategic arms proposal be expanded to include curbs on sea-based missiles, the New York Times reported today.

Cheney's comment, which came in an interview with the newspaper, was the first public statement by a high administration official on the arms reduction proposals, which had been known for a week, according to the report.

The US reluctance to agree to cut sea-based missiles is longstanding.

In the interview, Cheney was said to have brushed aside Moscow's complaints that the plan focused mainly on land-based missiles, an area of strength for the Soviet Union, and did not address sea-based missiles or weapons carried by bombers, areas of US advantage.

This seemed to suggest that the Soviet Union might yet agree on the Bush plan without securing additional limits on submarine missiles or bomber weapons, the newspaper said.



# No political contacts this time: Mandela

Hopes to meet Thatcher in May

LONDON, April 16, (Agencies): Nelson Mandela, in London to thank Britons for their support during his 27 years' imprisonment in South Africa, said he hoped to soon meet with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a London newspaper said yesterday.

However, the 71-year-old Deputy President of the African National Congress does not plan any political contacts during this visit, the highlight of which is his appearance at a huge rock concert in his honour at Wembley stadium this evening.

The prime minister has been an outspoken opponent of sanctions against the white-led South African government, saying recent moves toward reform should be encouraged. But Mandela, who was freed from prison on Feb 11, has urged the world to continue the pressure of sanctions.

On Monday, the Mirror newspaper quoted Mandela as saying in an interview in South Africa that he hoped to start meeting with world



Mandela embraces a little girl while Rev. Jackson looks on at an ANC meeting at a London hotel. (Reuters wirephoto)

leaders beginning next month, and that a meeting with Thatcher would likely be the first.

"I hope to see her in May," he was quoted as saying.

The Mirror said he spoke of Thatcher as "a very powerful lady — one I would rather have as an ally than as an enemy."

Mandela and his wife, Winnie, arrived in London early yesterday on his first visit to Britain since 1962.

At a gathering last night in Brixton, a South London district with a large black community, Winnie greeted thousands of anti-apartheid supporters with the clenched-fist salute of the ANC and thanked them for their support.

"Coming from that inferno of racial hatred, seeing these thousands of white faces before me tonight identifying with us makes me feel overjoyed," she said.

"Mandela would never have been released from prison if it was not for the pressure you exerted on South Africa. We have now reached a stage where you have to assist us to run that mile towards our liberation. You are the people who are going to give us the courage to run that last mile. We owe it all to you," she said.

Seventy-two thousand people have paid £20 (\$33) each to attend the "Nelson Mandela — an international tribute for a free South Africa" concert.

Twenty top pop performers, including Grammy award-winner Bonnie Raitt, Neil Young, Soul II Soul, the Neville Brothers, Simple Minds, Miriam Makeba, Peter Gabriel, Anita Baker and Tracy Chapman, will perform at the four-hour event. Mandela is to speak near the end of the show.

Five ex-ANC detainees sheltering in Kenya today wrote an open letter to Mandela, asking for his help in bringing the ANC officers who tortured them to justice.

The five last week told the Sunday Correspondent newspaper of London they had been tortured and accused of being South African agents after a mutiny in an Angolan ANC camp in 1984.

Mandela, admitted on Saturday that the torture had taken place, but said "immediate steps" had been taken to discipline those responsible.

The open letter, drafted by ex-detainees Amos Maxongo and Chege Molefi, rejected the suggestion that justice had been done.

The letter said the ex-detainees were bitter not just because they had been tortured but also because they had been undemocratically muzzleed by ANC leaders Chris Hani and Stanley Maibele who refused to allow them to tell other ANC cadres of their experiences.

It complained of "acts of torture and murder through beatings," and "brutal suppression of democracy denying the membership of the ANC any opportunity for a period of 13 years to decide through democratic elections who should lead them."

Mandela's praise for such leaders was misplaced, the letter said, and their continuance in office was against the spirit of democracy.

"Nothing can be more hypocritical when some of us helping to strengthen national institutions, Wai, Bill Chadwick, special forces officers in charge of starting the new unit, told the newspaper.



Pope John Paul II blesses the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Easter Sunday mass. The pontiff on Saturday told Lithuanians he was close to their

aspirations and was praying for them in "these hours of temptation." (Reuters wirephoto)

## An Easter with new hopes

Runcie hails changes in East Europe

LONDON, April 16, (AP): The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his Easter Sunday sermon, hailed the dismantling of physical, ideological and political barriers in Eastern Europe and spoke of the "New Light" which has dawned in South Africa.

"Hostile governments, competing ideologies, divided power structures — a year ago all seemed like frozen figures in a game of statues," said Archbishop Robert Runcie, spiritual leader of the Church of England and 70 million Anglicans world-wide.

"Yet suddenly, as if some secret music had struck up, the players have moved again. Against all odds, physical barriers, ideological barriers and political barriers have come down. Within months we have watched nations after nations climb out of the darkness and cold of captivity into the sunlight of freedom."

Runcie, who plans to retire early next year, said in his Easter sermon at Canterbury Cathedral "that new light has dawned elsewhere."

## De Klerk to submit plans

Scrapping apartheid

## 13 killed in Natal faction fighting

JOHANNESBURG, April 16, (Reuters): President F.W. de Klerk this week will present lawmakers with plans to eliminate the nation's remaining apartheid laws, a leading newspaper reported.

De Klerk plans to make a "statement of intent" to parliament to do away with the measures, but is not expected to scrap them unilaterally, the Sunday Star of Johannesburg reported, citing "political insiders."

De Klerk has eased some of the restrictions of South Africa's system of racial separation and white domination, but not the major apartheid laws: the Group Areas Act, which segregates neighbourhoods by race; the Population Registration Act, which classifies all South Africans by race; and the Land Acts, which allocate 13 per cent of the land for blacks.

Meanwhile, police said yesterday that 20 blacks were killed in the previous 24 hours in fighting between rival black groups in Natal province. It was one of the highest single-day death tolls of the past four years.

In the worst attack, police said 10 men were killed and two wounded in factional fighting at Ngubela, about 130 kms (80 miles) southwest of the port city of Durban.

Some 4,000 people have been killed since rival black groups began battling for supremacy in the south-eastern province in 1986 — including hundreds who have died in sharply escalated violence since February.

The rivalry is mainly between supporters of the African National Congress guerrilla movement and the smaller Zulu-led Inkatha Movement. Both the ANC and Inkatha oppose apartheid, but differ over tactics.

De Klerk has said the fighting threatens plans to start negotiations on a new constitution that will include the country's 28 million blacks, who are in the majority but lack any voice in national affairs.

De Klerk, who has initiated a series of reforms since assuming power last August, has said he wants to dismantle apartheid but has expressed reservations about a one-man, one-vote system.

JOHANNESBURG, April 16, (UPI): Despite the deployment of additional soldiers and police, intense fighting between rival black movements raged over the weekend in strife-torn Natal province, leaving at least 31 dead, including a soldier and a policeman, police said today.

A police statement reported 10 killed, including a soldier, yesterday and 11 wounded in incidents in Zulu tribal areas across the province, and state-run radio said a policeman was shot and killed near the inland town of Greytown late last night.

In the worst incident yesterday police said a group of blacks armed with rifles and shotguns attacked a Kraal in Kokokola, about 12 miles (20 km) inland from the Indian Ocean coastal town of Port Shepstone. Two men and a woman were killed and nine others injured.

Police also confirmed the death of a member of the South African Defence Forces — a soldier of mixed race from the Cape province.

It was the first reported death of a soldier in Natal since De Klerk ordered on April 2 additional troops deployed in Natal's Zulu areas in a bid to halt the fighting between supporters movements linked to the African National Congress and the rival Zulu tribal movement Inkatha of Mangosuthu Buthelez.

Police said three blacks had been arrested in connection with his killing, which occurred during an ambush on a military patrol in the black township of Myumbalanga, midway between the provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg and the Indian Ocean coastal city of Durban.

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### Green Berets re-established

FORT BRAGGS, North Carolina, April 16, (UPI): A unit of the army's crack Green Berets is being re-established at Fort Bragg for training in preparation for possible assignment to Africa, a report published yesterday said.

The 3rd special forces group, deactivated near the end of the Vietnam war, is being reborn at the army base near Fayetteville to specialise in Africa, the News and Observer of Raleigh reported.

Part of the special forces mission is to prevent insurgencies in developing countries or to stop revolution by helping to strengthen national institutions. Wai, Bill Chadwick, special forces officers in charge of starting the new unit, told the newspaper.



## INTERNATIONAL

## KGB building fire- bombed in Yerevan

## Crowd angered by arrest of four Armenians

MOSCOW, April 16, (AP) — Armenians bombed their local KGB headquarters with stones and torches in an attack that the intelligence agency's chief branded "an onslaught by bandits." Tass said yesterday. One of the attackers was reported killed.

Saturday evening's assault in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, spurred on by "provocative calls to liquidate the KGB," lasted two hours but

the rioters did not manage to break in to the building, the Soviet news agency said.

It said the crowd had been angered by the local KGB branch's arrest of four Armenians on charges of stealing weapons from a military unit.

National KGB chief Vladimir A. Kryuchkov denounced the incident as "unprecedented in a civilized society."

A group composed mainly of young men broke off from a

Yerevan ecological protest, went to the KGB building "and started to pelt its windows with rocks and lit torches," Tass reported.

One young man was fatally wounded when his home-made explosive device went off in his own hands, Tass said.

The report did not say how many men attacked the building or whether they were caught.

Alexan Akopyan, spokesman for the Armenian national

movement, confirmed the account of the attack in a telephone interview from Yerevan. He asserted that the arrests that sparked the attack had been part of "an all-out campaign against armed banditry" by the Armenian KGB.

He charged that local KGB officers were trying to gain approval from Moscow rather than cut the southern republic's crime rate.

Since Armenia's strained rela-

tions with neighbouring Azerbaijan worsened this winter and armed clashes grew common, militants have staged dozens of raids on the republic's arms depots to get weapons for fighting the Azerbaijanis.

The Armenian KGB had issued a public appeal warning of the "special danger of the provocative actions of the criminal world" who "purposely push people to the line past which, according to their calcula-

tions, innocent blood will be spilled." Kryuchkov, in a message to the agency's Armenian branch, praised the men inside the building who held themselves ready to repel an attack but did not strike back.

"Only thanks to their restraint and capable actions was it possible to avoid more serious consequences and victims," his message said, according to Tass.

## Walesa union seeks new role

WARSAW, April 16, (Reuters) — Lech Walesa's Solidarity trade union, meeting this week for its first national congress since 1981, is struggling to define its role in the new Poland it created by overthrowing four decades of communism.

Solidarity captured the imagination of the world as it fought for a free Poland throughout the 1980s, finally sweeping to power last year in the first of Eastern Europe's democratic revolutions.

But now the movement is struggling to balance its conflicting roles as government and trade union, and dispel a widespread feeling that Solidarity has served its purpose.

While still a powerful symbol with which most Poles identify, Solidarity has lost impetus as a union movement now that many of its original goals — above all the struggle against communism — have been fulfilled or are well under way.

Many Poles, worn out by the rigours of the 1980s and the current harsh economic climate, are less concerned with Solidarity than with making ends meet.

And with many of its top leaders now in government and Parliament, some accuse Solidarity of not standing up for workers' interests or even of creating its own "nomenklatura" to replace the communist old guard in positions of power.

Solidarity, which claimed nearly 10 million members in 1980-81, now officially says it has 2.2 million.

By comparison, the Opozycja official union set up by the communists after they disbanded Solidarity in 1982, claims about seven million members and fights on a populist platform, opposing sweeping privatisation and the free-market reforms of Solidarity Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz.

When the six-day congress opens on Thursday all eyes will be on Walesa, who said last week he would stand for re-election as Solidarity chairman and wanted to distance the union from the government and the Opozycja parliamentary group.

"The trade union has now to fulfil a defensive function more, it cannot be endlessly the background of the government or the Opozycja," Walesa said.

The 46-year-old Gdansk shipyard electrician, who addresses the congress on Friday, may also offer clues to his own political ambitions after coming to power last week for the first time he was ready to run for Poland's presidency.

**Czechoslovakia:** Five years ago, Czechoslovakia's communist leaders refused to allow Pope John Paul to visit the village which has inspired the country's Roman Catholics for eight centuries.

Now, the tiny religious centre of Velehrad amid the rolling hills of south Moravia is preparing for an influx of up to one million pilgrims when the Pope finally arrives on April 22.

**Yugoslavia:** Yugoslavia will start selling "holy water" from the River Jordan after market research showed it would sell well, Tanjug news agency said yesterday.

The only problem is to work out how much to charge for it, Tanjug said, "because the competent authorities are unable to classify the product into any existing tax categories."

**Albania:** An Albanian Catholic entered the Greek embassy in Tirana yesterday, and sought political asylum, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Athens said.

Berard Kici, 38, from the northern Albanian city of Shkoder entered the Greek embassy in the Albanian capital Tirana and sought asylum for both religious and political reasons, the spokesman said.

## Lithuania ignores threat of blockade

## Moscow warns US not to risk tensions

MOSCOW, April 16, (AP) — Lithuanian leaders ignored a deadline to reverse their independence drive and said they would discuss the issue today.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had sent a letter Friday to the republic's leaders, demanding that by yesterday evening they rescind their moves to break away from the Soviet Union or face an economic blockade.

The Kremlin warned Washington yesterday against risking a return to cold war tensions over Lithuania's independence claim as Moscow's deadline for concessions from the breakaway republic went unheeded.



Easter vigil in Ivov

Leaders of the official Russian Orthodox Church take part in an Easter vigil in the streets of Ivov, Soviet Ukraine, (left), after St. George's Cathedral was closed to prevent

any incident over Easter. The official church has been dragging its feet on the issue of returning the church to the Ukrainian Catholic (Ukrainian) Church. At right, believers light

The Communist Party daily Pravda said that under international law the "Lithuanian question" was strictly an internal matter.

Comment from Washington, which has never formally recognised the incorporation of the three Baltic Republics into the Soviet Union in 1940, was unwelcome, it said.

"One can say the whole world has undergone perestroika. It would be reckless to throw it under the feet of the Lithuanian nationalists who have lost their sense of reality and responsibility," wrote Pravda commentator Tomas Kolesaichenko.

In Moscow, ministry officials awaited orders to set in force a cutoff of raw materials to the Baltic Republic, which depends heavily on Soviet natural gas and petroleum and manufacturing components.

Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas went on Lithuanian television as the deadline expired and said the republic's President, Vytautas Landsbergis, and its Prime Minister, Kazimiera Prunskiene, would discuss Moscow's ultimatum today.

Landsbergis has repeatedly said Lithuania would not abandon its attempt to become an independent nation.

"I am sure they will implement some measures," Landsbergis said late yesterday as the 48-hour ultimatum expired.

"But we do not know in what form the blockade will be implemented and when and how," he said.

"Will it be total or partial? Will it be immediate or will it be gradually stepped up? All that will become clear only in time," Landsbergis said in comments by telephone to Reuters.

## Ambassador

In an apparent move to solidify independence, Lithuania expected to appoint an ambassador today to the neighbouring Baltic Republic of Estonia. Estonia, which has also made moves to break away from the Soviet Union, will reciprocate. Aidas Palubinskas of the Lithuanian Parliament's information office said Ozolas announced the decision.

In his ultimatum, Gorbachev said he would cut off supplies of products the Soviet Union sells abroad for hard currency. He did not specify the materials, but they presumably include oil and natural gas — products Lithuania has brought from Moscow at subsidised prices.

Palubinskas quoted Ozolas as acknowledging that Lithuania's factories would be able to function for only about two weeks if Moscow imposed an economic blockade. But he added that the Soviet Union has never been able to brag about swift implementation of its economic decisions.

Palubinskas also said the deputy prime minister wished Lithuanians a happy Easter and advised them to rest up, "because this week doesn't promise to be any less hectic — but by next weekend we'll be happy by what we've accomplished."

The republic of 3.8 million people declared its independence from the Soviet Union on March 11 and has been engaged in a war of nerves with the Kremlin ever since.

## Soft

Palubinskas quoted Ozolas as saying that Gorbachev's tone appeared to soften in the ultimatum delivered Friday because he demanded only that the republic rescind laws passed since its March 11 declaration of independence.

Previous demands to revoke the declaration itself seem to have been dropped, leaving room for more practical discussions, Palubinskas said.

Since Lithuania declared its independence, the Kremlin has alternated between making threats and conciliatory statements. Soviet troops have occupied some buildings in Vilnius, and conscripts who refused to serve in the Red Army have been seized and beaten.

## Thousands stage peace protests

## Germans mark Easter

EAST BERLIN, April 16, (AP) — East and West Germans poured through the border and packed churches Easter Sunday to give thanks for their newfound freedoms while thousands of others took part in traditional peace protests.

With document checks eased for the holiday, border guards at the Brandenburg gate checkpoint waved through crowds of West Berlin churchgoers headed for Roman Catholic and Lutheran services in East Berlin.

The free flow of traffic at crossings all along the border was unthinkable last Easter when East Germany was still under hard-line communist control and independent church leaders were officially scorned.

Church leaders throughout East Germany referred to the dramatic political upheaval of last fall and urged their countrymen to continue to work for democracy.

"If we do not respond to the new reality, then all our efforts were in vain," Bishop Joachim Wanke told worshippers in Erfurt, 200 kms (120 miles) southwest of Berlin.

East Germany's new political leaders have close ties to the church. Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere headed the Lutheran Church Council for many years, and the new Disarmament and Defence Minister and Foreign Minister are Lutheran clergymen.

In West Germany, Bishop Karl Lehmann, the chairman of the German Bishops' Conference, reminded his listeners in a sermon in the Mainz cathedral of the "revolutionary power" of belief in the church and the role it played in liberating the former communist countries of Eastern Europe.

Tens of thousands celebrated Sunday in the streets, taking part in traditional Easter marches for peace.

Peace activists from both West and East Germany joined together for the first time in anti-war rallies and demonstrations, but the protests were only a shadow of those in years past.

Protests took place in more than 300 villages and cities in East and West Germany, but the number of participants reportedly was far lower than in previous years.

Nearly 3,000 left-wing demonstrators carrying East German, Soviet and Palestinian flags, took part in a noisy march from East Berlin into West Berlin.

"Berlin without a wall — Germany without weapons — Europe without blocs," read the lead banner of the march.

"We don't want a strong military in Germany. The army must be reduced," said Alexander Jirout, a German-speaking Czechoslovak student, as he passed out protest leaflets.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl plans to confer this month with East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere on the planned German economic, monetary and social union, the West German newspaper Welt Am Sonntag said Sunday.

It said the first German summit meeting would take place as soon as Kohl returns from his Easter vacation April 23.

Kohl and De Maiziere, who took office Thursday as East Germany's first non-communist prime minister, have discussed by phone their plans for the meeting several times, the newspaper said.

The new East German Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann said Saturday in a newspaper interview he does not think an all-German army will be formed soon.

## Bulgarians disappeared in '44

## WW mass grave

SOFIA, April 16, (AP) — A mass grave containing the remains of nearly 40 people — apparently residents of a district in southwestern Bulgaria who disappeared in 1944 — has been discovered, the state BTA news agency reported.

BTA, in a dispatch late Saturday, said the grave was found near the village of Dobrinishte, on the site of a hideout used by Partizan Ivan Kozarev in his fight against the Nazis.

"Local people say that the victims are probably some of residents of the former Razlog district who went missing in October 1944," BTA said, without elaborating on the possible circumstances of their deaths.

Meanwhile, an opinion poll released yesterday suggested that at this time the ruling communists would hardly win any free election, but the main coalition of opposition parties is gaining electorate support.

Elections are scheduled for June 10, and the communists remain in full control of the country. They have approved free elections of the kind that have transformed the rest of the East bloc and profess to accept full democracy.

The survey of more than 3,100 voters, completed on Saturday and published by the Sofia Press Agency, showed nearly 41 per cent supporting the Socialist Party of the communists, with almost 30 per cent favouring the opposition Union of Democratic Forces.

## It's been hard to be a communist in Georgia

## Poor Josef Stalin has white paint from his moustache down the front of his coat

TBILISI, USSR, April 16, (AP) — Poor Josef Stalin. The once all-powerful dictator, sculpted on the facade of the institute of party history here, has white paint from his moustache down the front of his coat.

Since Soviet troops sent in with Politburo approval killed 19 protesters in Tbilisi one year ago, it's been hard to be a communist in Georgia.

Vazha Gurgendze, ideology secretary of the Georgian Communist Party, said that for days after last year's April 9 clash, "I couldn't look my children in the eyes."

Although he and some other party members helped evacuate the wounded from the square, the party bears moral responsibility for the attack, and "it will always be with us," he

said in his office in the imposing central committee building of golden-hued marble.

Gurgendze denied that Georgia's Communist Party is under siege, saying its membership of 400,000 has even risen slightly. But after the clash and the resulting furor, he said, "We felt immediately that we couldn't go on as we had been. We had to go with the people."

Regional party leaders now support calls for eventual Georgian independence. Party officials even laid wreaths at the graves of the victims before anniversary protests last week.

But many of Georgia's independent activists say the Communist Party is a thing of the past, a passive caretaker until elections this fall.

Even the official Soviet news agency Tass has acknowledged that there is a "certain vacuum of power" in the Caucasus republic.

Unlike in the Baltic republics, where well-organised popular movements have stepped in to replace discredited communists, the Georgian political scene is a hodgepodge of splinter parties.

In the past year, and particularly since the Georgian Supreme Soviet legalised a multiparty system last month, about 120 parties have sprouted, by Gurgendze's count.

The opposition parties are split into two main camps. One is a coalition called the National Forum that advocates mass civil disobedience. The other envisions a parliamentary struggle for independence, such as the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are waging.

Among the most prominent groups is the Georgian Popular Front, whose leader, Nodar Natadze, is trying to persuade radicals that they should run for the republic's parliament.

Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence "encourages us, it gives us force and it gives us hope," he added.

But activists also acknowledge that Georgia faces special obstacles.

Yet he had never played a role in politics until taking the lead at the Sajudis pro-democracy, pro-independence movement at its first congress 18 months ago.

But Landsbergis had to suspend plans for a





Young high school girls shout 'murderers be hanged' during a protest outside the Royal Academy in Kathmandu April 15. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Nepal king bows to opposition demands

Parliament dissolved: Premier resigns

KATHMANDU, April 16, (Agencies) King Birendra, bowing today to opposition demands for democratic reforms, dissolved Parliament, lifted a ban on political parties and accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand.

The royal proclamation, broadcast at mid-morning by state radio, ended a week of political deadlock in which the two parties leading the campaign for democracy refused to join an interim government unless the Rashtriya Panchayat, or National Assembly, was dissolved and

their own nominee named prime minister. The top leader of the once-banned Nepali Congress Party was summoned to meet with the king later today, sparking speculation that he would be asked to head the government. Ganesh Man Singh said he did not want to comment until he had met with Birendra.

"This is progress in the right direction," said Yog Prasad Upadhyaya, secretary-general of the Nepali Congress, which had spearheaded the pro-democracy movement.



Representatives of the Nepali opposition leaders wave to journalists April 15. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Doubts over democracy

Nepalis face serious questions

KATHMANDU, April 16, (AP) People power scaled the highest Himalayas last week and a king bowed to a street revolution, promising multiparty democracy. A political stalemate is holding up the reform, however, and some fear Nepal's movement toward freedom will be turned back.

Two days after the bloodiest crackdown in Nepal's modern history, 44-year-old King Birendra on April 6 and the government cracked down. Up to 200 people were killed when police opened fire in Kathmandu and elsewhere.

Two days later, a special television broadcast told the story: the king was establishing a new system. In exchange, the opposition agreed to accept to its agitation.

New battle lines have been drawn. The king invited the opposition to join an interim government. But the opposition, led by the Nepali Congress Party, said the king's role was to be a living God, what means should they use?

The questions are not new. Three decades ago, Nepal experimented with multiparty politics for 18 months. The experiment ended abruptly when Birendra's father, King Mahendra, dismissed the government and banned political parties, which he accused of corruption and incompetence.

Now the Nepali Congress Party, which Mahendra banned, has returned to power. It is a coalition with a leftist coalition, the party led the movement for democracy that drew hundreds of thousands of people into the streets. Doctors, pilots, government workers, students and intellectuals conducted strikes. The movement peaked April 6 and the government cracked down. Up to 200 people were killed when police opened fire in Kathmandu and elsewhere.

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But they refused, saying they wanted their own nominee as prime minister and the National Assembly dissolved immediately.

## Benazir urges birth control

Efforts mostly symbolic

SHAHPUR, Pakistan April 16, (AP) Family planning is a top priority for the Muslim world's only female government leader, but critics say Benazir Bhutto should work much harder at stemming Pakistan's ballooning population growth.

A child is born every eight seconds in Pakistan, whose population of 110 million grows by 3.2 per cent a year. That puts Pakistan ahead of its teeming neighbour India, where the growth rate is 2 per cent.

Benazir, a 37-year-old mother of two, often speaks out against the population problem, and her ascendancy to power in the male-dominated Muslim world is seen as a major psychological coup for women wanting to make their own family-planning decisions.

But her 16-month-old government faces widespread opposition from Muslim fundamentalists, backwash in rural areas and criticism that most of her population control measures appear to work on paper only.

The lip service is there, but no actual commitment. Politicians don't give a damn," said Altaf Ahmed, a Lahore-based training director of the Family Planning Association of Pakistan.

The government has issued a four-page policy statement which claims every ministry is pitching in for population control.

So far, however, Pakistan's family planning efforts have been mostly symbolic, focusing on such steps as teaching "population studies" to primary school pupils.

The government has also promised to expand health care programs in rural areas, where there is little or no medical and birth control help available.

In Shahpur, one of the tens of thousands of villages where health care workers and family planners struggle to try to control the exploding birthrate, Barkhau has seen almost one-third of the squabbling babies die in the past 45 years since he was born.

"Last week I delivered twins. One died. The mother was just too weak," said Barkhau, a 70-year-old midwife in a squalid eastern village where open sewers snake through a maze of narrow dusty alleys.

At least 124 of every 1,000 babies die immediately after birth, according to official figures.

"Every year Pakistan's population grows by 3 million people and just to maintain a minimum standard of living the government has to invest so much money that it has less and less to invest elsewhere," said Naseem Iqbal Farooqi, of the National Institute of Population Studies.

The soaring growth rate "exerts pressure on every sector of our society — health, education, environment, energy and housing," he said.

At about \$300, Pakistan already has one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world. Thousands of toddlers perish from malnutrition and disease before reaching the age of five, and doctors say stillbirths are widespread.

Officials argue those gruesome statistics would dwindle if fewer and healthier — children were born.

But a major obstacle to family planning is the widespread influence of fundamentalist Islamic clerics, who rail against modern concepts such as birth control and issue threats of eternal damnation to women who tamper with what they say is God's master plan.

As in most developing countries, Pakistani parents regard children as an insurance against destitution in old age, and often believe that the more offspring they produce, the more comfortable their declining years will be.

Nazira, a Shahpur woman, rejected birth control for herself, saying that "whatever God gives you, you must accept."

And Nusrat, a bride of three weeks, told the Associated Press she wants a small family but that "it will be the will of God if my mother-in-law wants me to have many children. I am afraid of my mother-in-law, whatever she decides."

"Women in our society have always been looked down upon, ruled. No decisions were ever made by them," said one health care worker, who asked that his name not be used.

Pakistani girls are strictly segregated from public life as soon as they reach puberty, and barred into forced marriage at age 15. From then on, husbands and in-laws make their decisions for them.

Most officials agree, however, that Benazir's 1988 election will help the nation's women on their way to self-determination.

"Suddenly, a woman is giving direction in matters of our destiny. She is the architect of our soul. It has to have an effect," the health care worker said.

## Bomb kills five in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India, April 16, (AP) A bomb hidden in a tractor exploded outside a Hindu temple yesterday, killing five people as they watched a popular television show, police said. Sikh militants were blamed.

In addition, 11 suspected militants were killed throughout Punjab state, Press Trust of India reported.

Police said the bomb exploded in the Punjab town of Ludhiana, after a Sikh man parked the tractor near a television shop.

Twenty-five other people were injured by the blast, Ludhiana police superintendent H.S. Khara said.

The dead and injured were among a crowd of about 50 people who had gathered to watch a popular television serial at the shop beside the temple gate, Khara said.

In the past, Sikh extremists waging a violent independence campaign in Punjab have planted bombs near TV shops and timed them to explode when crowds gather for the weekly showing of "Mahabharata," a long-running Hindu epic that draws vast audiences of all faiths throughout India.

Khara said a Sikh man in his early 20s parked the tractor beside the temple gate at 9 am (0330 GMT), 15 minutes before the show begins.

About 10 minutes later, smoke and fire started pouring out of the tractor's engine. The bomb exploded while some of the crowd were throwing water and dirt on the engine to extinguish the fire, the police superintendent said.

The dead included a Sikh shopkeeper and a Sikh woman and her 8-year-old grandson, Khara said.

Meanwhile, Press Trust of India reported that 11 suspected Sikh militants were killed throughout the state since Saturday night.

Six of the militants died in a shootout with security forces in Tarn Taran, the report said. One suspected separatist was apparently the victim of inter-gang rivalry, it said, while the remaining four were killed in separate incidents around the state.

### Contract

## Malaysia seeks Indian doctors

KUALA LUMPUR, April 16, (AP) Malaysia hopes to recruit 100 doctors and specialists from India by the end of this year, a news report said yesterday.

The New Sunday Times quoted Minister of Health Ng Cheng Kiat as saying that advertisements will be placed in Indian newspapers to attract the doctors, who will be recruited under contract.

Speaking on Saturday in Ipoh, 200 kms (120 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur, Ng predicted that Malaysia would face a shortage of 2,000 doctors by the year 2000, the newspaper said.

## Bomb explodes in Islamabad, none hurt

ISLAMABAD, April 16, (AP) A bomb hidden under a bus exploded near a shopping district this morning, but there were no casualties, police said. It was the second blast in three days.

The bus, bound for Rawalpindi, about 16 kilometres (10 miles) away, had stopped at a stand near Ayub market when the bomb went off, police said. The only occupants, the driver and a conductor, escaped unhurt, they said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing, but police suspected it might be the work of a militant group. On Friday, a bomb attached to the underside of a vehicle exploded in a congested marketplace and seriously injured two children.

In other developments Pakistani customs officials seized 8.4 tonnes of hashish yesterday, one of the biggest drug hauls in recent months. The hashish, worth \$5 million in the international market, was discovered during a raid on a village near Karachi, the official news agency APP reported.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today expressed satisfaction at the successful culmination of negotiations between the Sindh government and Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) in Karachi last night which led to the end of last-into-death by movement chief Altaf Hussain.

In a statement issued here he said, "I am happy because sense prevailed and a potentially grave situation has been averted."

## 37 die of poisoning

4 gored to death

LUCKNOW, India, April 16, (AP) A feast to celebrate a marriage engagement left 37 people dead and 130 people hospitalised in a village near this northern Indian city, Press Trust of India reported today.

United News of India said 20 people died. The conflicting death tolls could not immediately be reconciled.

The incident occurred last night in Raipurna village, near Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh State.

United News of India said the food poisoning occurred during a "Tilak" ceremony. A "Tilak" is a decorative dot many Indians, especially Hindus, wear on their foreheads for auspicious occasions.

During a tilak ceremony, engaged couples exchange rings and feast with their families.

In other developments four spectators were gored to death and 20 were injured in a crush of people when bulls ran amok during a Hindu temple festival in the South Indian city of Madurai, the Press Trust of India said.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### A-bomb dome

TOKYO, April 16, (AP) Hiroshima on Monday marked the completion of a 200-million-yen (\$1.25-million-dollar) reconstruction of the "A-bomb dome," which has come to symbolize the destruction of the world's first atom bomb attack.

The building, left skeletal but standing after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the United States in 1945, was reinforced with water-proof agent and epoxy resins during the five-month preservation project.

### Kaifu tour

TOKYO, April 16, (KUNA) Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will travel to India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia from April 28 through May 6, his aides said Monday.

During his trip, the aides said, Kaifu will carry out a new diplomacy of "width and depth" toward Asia.



## Farmers blame poor marketing for price increases

### Proper planning demanded

FARMERS at Abdali and Wafra agricultural areas, attribute the sharp increase in prices of vegetables during the Holy Month of Ramadan to the lack of marketing companies that should plan for such occasions when demand for vegetables increase and local produces

cannot meet these demands.

They added that non-co-operation of companies that market vegetables is one of the factors that have led to increase in prices and called for learning from previous experiments during the Holy Month.

They recommended that these companies should purchase large quantities of vegetables and store them for sale during Ramadan. The procedure if adopted, will lead to reduced prices in local market, the farmers said and suggested allocating special places at co-

operative societies to sell local vegetables or to permit farmers to market their products by themselves at co-operatives and public places without being prevented by the municipality or other official authorities.

## Slim growth in number of Kuwaiti graduates

By Jamal Ameen

A FOLLOW-UP report of the national development plan for the last year has shown a slim growth among the numbers of graduates which reached 152, boys and girls during the years 1984/85 - 1988/89, indicating that the annual growth percentage of graduates is 0.97 per cent.

The report stressed that this percentage is not adequate or commensurate with the total numbers of Kuwaiti students registered in the public education sector at 3.2 per cent each year, nor was it commensurate with their growth percentage of students in secondary education recorded at 5.3 per cent.

The report showed that the graduation percentage kept fluctuating around the annual average of 5300, adding that the number of boys decreased during the current five-year plan by 385 graduates at an annual percentage drop of 4 per cent.

The report said that a steady growth has been made in the numbers of graduates from the girls, adding that the number of graduates during this period reached 152 at an annual growth percentage of 4.6 per cent.

## Specialised judicial institute may be set up

THE Supreme Judicial Council holds a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Chancellor Mohammad Yousef Al Refai to discuss the study submitted to the council from the Justice Ministry for the establishment of a specialised judicial institute in Kuwait.

A ministerial decision was earlier issued forming a special committee for the task of preparing an integrated study on the proposed institute headed by the undersecretary at the Higher Court of Appeals Chancellor Abdullah Ali Al Issa. Members of the committee paid a number of visits to Arab and foreign countries to review similar achievements in this field.

The council will return the study to the ministry after making comments to learn of its official response. In the final analysis the study will be submitted to the council of ministries to endorse the needed executive steps.



Envoy to Greece

Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmed, yesterday received in his office Kuwaiti Ambassador to Greece Ali Al Zaid.

### Modern equipment and care

## Razi Hospital successfully treats scores of patients

By Nashat Al Agha

THE Razi Hospital has two committees meetings every Thursday to test cases requiring accurate and specialised consultations. Such cases also include those transferred from the National Council and the Ministry of Public Health.

The two committees have examined a total of 671 cases during 1988 in addition to efforts made in the field of teaching and training at the Medicine College of the University of Kuwait. Medical students receive their training at specialised outpatient clinics. They are also trained by assisting at surgeries.

Director of the Razi Hospital, Dr Abdul Raheem Al Zaid, stated that Al Razi Orthopaedic Hospital contains 10 different sections: five for males, two for females, one for accidents in addition to the other sections. He pointed out that physiotherapy at Razi Hospital represents a major programme in the treatment of patients. The hospital

contains two physiotherapy sections one for men and the other for women, each provided with latest state of the art equipment in orthopaedic treatment and rehabilitation.

With respect to teaching and training, Zaid indicated that special time schedules are designated for medicine students at Kuwait University. Such training is conducted by a specialised doctor in addition to professors from the university.

He added that the hospital also includes a scientific library equipped with different modern books in orthopaedic medicine. The library also contains illustrative facilities for doctors in order to look over the recent discoveries in the field. Several sessions and symposiums held at the hospital are recorded for future reference.

### Workshop

The Orthopaedic Hospital has regularly invited a number of well-known orthopaedicians to conduct special operations.

The hospital administration

will hold a training workshop at the hospital in order to train doctors on conducting surgeries with the most modern methods and under the supervision of consultants. He said a number of doctors have attended training abroad in order to follow up the new discoveries in the field, in addition to attending international conferences and symposiums.

Zaid pointed out that the general hospital clinic has received a total of 39,761 patients in 1988, while specialised clinics received an estimated 17,654 patients in the same year. He stated that 53,013 patients had visited the X-ray section at the hospital.

The Razi Hospital has a highly recognised laboratory section. Zaid said and added that the hospital has a total of 21 technicians aligned to three main units. Zaid explained that the current laboratory is capable of fulfilling hospital requirements for orthopaedic surgery except some cases which are conducted at Sabah Hospital laboratories.

### Rule violations

## Action against schools: Sharrah

THE assistant undersecretary of education ministry for private education Dr. Yacoub Al Sharrah has said that the ministry will not be lenient with any school that violates rules and systems of private education in the country. He added that the private education department at the ministry is ready to receive any complaint from teachers or parents of pupils at these schools. The department reviews and investigates the complaint immediately.

The department works to develop the educational standards of private schools, and obliges private schools to transfer payments of their teachers to the banks selected by teachers themselves. This action aims at preventing administrations of some private schools from obliging teachers to sign on papers showing they take their full payments but actually have their payments cut.

Teachers in these schools complained from this problem for a long time, he said.

## Conditions set for municipal tenders

A NEW condition stipulating that 30 per cent of the Kuwaiti clearing companies technical and administrative staff should be Kuwaitis will be added to the municipality's cleanliness tenders, a local daily quoted an official source at Kuwait Municipality as saying.

He added that the new conditions will be inserted into the new contracts to be concluded between the municipality and the clearing companies as of this month.

The source commented that this measure falls within the administrative development policy adopted by Kuwait Municipality and according to the new conditions decided that four leading posts including the project manager, the director of administrative and technical affairs, the garage manager and area controller should be occupied by Kuwaitis.

### Meet a neighbour

# The man behind public transport

## Providing a valuable service

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

ABDUL WAHAB AL HAROON chairman and managing director of the Kuwait Public Transportation Company (KPTC), is amongst the new Kuwaiti generation educated abroad and who return and serve their country.

Haroon finished his Masters degree from the United States in 1976 in geography and planning (urban planning development and population movement) and was a lecturer at Kuwait University from 1972 until '76.

The young Kuwaiti official also participated in writing a book about Public Transportation Planning (directive on the Kuwaiti experience) published by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences in 1986.

A devoted, active young Kuwaiti, Haroon took over the responsibility of KPTC in 1977 and was able to upgrade and develop this vital sector in the country.

Giving a brief idea about the company, Haroon explained that KPTC which started with a capital of KD2 million, is now operating with a capital of KD40 million. Its services cover all Kuwait by land and sea, inside and outside. The company operated its first 100 buses in 1965. During 1980 it was fully owned by the government. The routes were increased to reach 56 with a total of 750 buses and another 1,500 buses serving students and other government employees. The company's fleet totalling 2,500 buses provides transport for the public and other government sectors.

### Service

In 1986 the company took over a new service of government cars' maintenance and garages. A new service was introduced in 1987 by KPTC of the ferry service from Kuwait to Failaka. Outside Kuwait the company also was able to provide 1,000 buses to pilgrims during haj season every year.

However that is not all, the company was able to employ efficient drivers and to deal with complaints from passengers, Haroon added.

"Incentives are offered to the best drivers every three months along with certificates. Violations by the drivers are strictly monitored," he said.

The ten years of experience in that field has enthused Haroon



Abdul Wahab Al Haroon

to encourage new Kuwaiti graduates to join the company, especially in computer, accounts and other administrative sectors.

42-year-old Haroon is a father of four daughters. The typical Cancerian is very dedicated to his family. His best time is spent with his family. Although his children are still at the beginning of their academic life, Haroon encourages them to read, think and hopes that they become intellectuals.

A man of wide knowledge, Haroon is a voracious reader of old and new books. He has strong views on equality between men and women and is a staunch defender of women's role to develop Kuwaiti society. "Kuwaiti women took over responsibilities to develop their society by joining different jobs. Now we can see these women as engineers, doctors, teachers and nurses," Haroon said.

### Flashback

When I asked him about his dislikes, Haroon leaned back and thought carefully. "I dislike women over dressed with an exaggerated appearance boasting with the number of maids behind. This thing is quite obvious whenever we travel. Many women insist on travelling with three to four maids and taking them everywhere they go. Such phenomenon should disappear. That is not all. Also irritating are heavy demands of the women nowadays from their husbands," he added.

"About men I dislike those who spend most of their time in diwanis. Also men who insist on buying big cars which they cannot afford."

With a flashback about his early childhood, Haroon said that he grew in old Mubarakia area. He and his family moved to Salihiya when he was six where he joined school. Their next station was Hawalli area before they settled in Dahiya Abdullah Al Salem. Haroon misses the old simple Kuwaiti houses built from mud with high ceilings for ventilation. In those days people were closer to each other. Now houses are bigger provided with more facilities but people are isolated from each other.

Reading and sports are his best hobbies, but due to the heavy schedule of work, Haroon does not practice sports any more. His weekends are the best time when he jogs or reads.

He likes watching television, especially comedies. His favourite comedians are Said Al Faraj, Hayat Al Fahad and Ghannim Al Saleh. Football matches are his top priorities on TV programmes. His best players are Jassim Yaqoub, Samir Saeed and Adel Abbas.

Haroon who comes from a big family of 14 brothers, attributed his success to his educated father and his mother, who had no formal education but only finished studying Quran (Motaw'a). His mother was able to bring up all her sons on Islamic teachings and encouraged them to finish higher education.

If he had to start his career from the very beginning, he would have chosen to go to join the Ministry of Planning. His main aim at his position in the company is to upgrade the level and reputation of public transport. He wants to serve his country modestly.



Mobile slaughterhouse plan

Hawalli Governor, Abdul Latif Al Barjes received at his office a delegation from Kuwait Municipality in order to view the location for establishing a mobile slaughterhouse in Hawalli Governorate.

Barjes welcomed this new step and said that such a utility will facilitate residents since they can avoid going to other governorate to slaughter their Eid sacrifices.

The governor indicated that an agreement was reached to establish a slaughter house near the vegetables shed in Salmiya near Hawalli Passports Department. The mobile slaughterhouse will be implemented as soon as possible.

The municipality delegation included Yousef Al Anzi from the Slaughterhouses Department and Engineer Hesham Al Radaan from the Construction Department.

## Co-op union maintains stable prices: Swarej

THE chairman of the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumers Societies Saad Al Swarej has said that the union has maintained stable prices for the commodities it provided for the past one and a half years, and that the increased prices of certain commodities are but individual gestures by dealers.

He expressed concern over the recent directive by the Council of Ministers requesting the Ministry Commerce and Industry to assign national companies to import needed foodstuffs although the union provides such commodities at only 3 per cent profitability, whereas the suppliers and dealers secured 50 per cent of the profits.

He wondered why the union is not authorised to expand its imports of foodstuff whereby it could maintain firmer control over prices.

## Opja elections

THE Overseas Pakistani Journalists Association (Opja) held its meeting last night under the chairmanship of its president, Masoodullah Khan.

The meeting reviewed Opja's activities during the last year and decided to hold its annual elections on Wednesday, April 18, at the residence of Masoodullah Khan. All Opja members have been requested to attend the election meeting at 9.30 pm.

The meeting was attended by Masoodullah Khan, Wajid Ali Wajid, Saeed Saeed, Zakiauddin Ahmad Rajput, Yawar Masoud and Abdus Sattar Ghazali.



Amiri medals awarded

The director of Hawalli Traffic Department Col Humoud Al Khorafi distributed medals granted by HH the Amir to a number of traffic policemen at the department (19 non-commissioned officers) on behalf of director-general of General Traffic Administration Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajji. The ceremony was attended by a number of officers at the department.

## Istimara case intermediary named

THE prime intermediary in the driving permits trading case is reportedly of an Arab nationality known as Abu Zuhair, and is currently under extensive interrogation to uncover more details about the whole case and reveal the names of other people involved in the illegal business.

A local daily said that Abu Zuhair is well-to-do with a substantial financial position, and that he owns a number of buildings outside Kuwait besides a restaurant here.

Meanwhile, competent security authorities continue interrogating a colonel implicated in the case who firmly denies any connection with the case, while several others are being questioned in the same connection to establish their level of involvement.

Meanwhile, the Court of Misdemeanours has fined a university professor KD150 for publicly slandering his colleague and likening him to his shoes.

The court heard that the defen-

dant, head of a section, had differences with the victim which were the cause for several occasions of arguments between them. The defendant always accused the victim of having used his office to send a student on scholarship, alleging that he forged the needed documents to ensure that the student benefited from the scholarship available.

Seven eye-witnesses were interviewed by the court prior to passing the judgement.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Support for Iraq

KUWAIT, April 16, (Kuna): "The Arabs should take a unified stance towards the hostile campaign being waged against Iraq," a Kuwaiti daily said yesterday.

A local daily said the stance should be strong and strict enough so that Israel and other international parties would take it into consideration before attempting any adventurous schemes.

The paper pointed out that although Iraq would be able to take the matter into its own hands, it must not make the support of all the Arabs for Iraq any the less, so that those who are behind the hostile campaign would realise they are not only facing Iraq but the whole Arab nation.

The Kuwaiti daily strongly suggested that Arabs should for once, forget their internal disputes and unite before it is too late.

#### Communications experts

KUWAIT, April 16, (Kuna): Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan said here yesterday that the ministry will hire a team of foreign experts to pinpoint the ministry's problem areas and come up with solutions.

In an interview with a local daily, Sharhan said the aim of hiring the team was to improve the services offered by the ministry.

He added that the experts, from International Communications Federation in Switzerland, will study the ministry's needs and evaluate its performance.

#### Envoy meets Sharif

ISLAMABAD, April 16, (Kuna): President of the multi-party opposition alliance, the Islami Jamhoori Ittihad (IJI), Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, met the Kuwaiti Ambassador in Pakistan Qasim Omer Al Yaqout, at his residence recently.

Nawaz Sharif, who is the chief minister of Pakistan's most populous province of the Punjab, reportedly discussed matters of mutual interest with the ambassador of Kuwait.

Two days ago Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar, principal leader of the ruling Pakistan People's Party in the Punjab province, met Yaqout at the embassy premises.

#### Border posts study

THE security committee of the Interior Ministry has assigned a number of local contracting companies to carry out a study on the proposed border posts centres development and the services they require.

The committee asked the companies to submit their reports back after some time. The government has already approved a sum of KD30 million to develop all the three border posts in Kuwait in Abdalli, Salmi and Nuwaiseeb. A higher committee responsible for the project will shortly hold an important meeting to evaluate the steps taken so far in the project.

#### Zawawi in Tokyo

MUSCAT, April 16, (Kuna): Sultan Qaboos' special advisor on foreign contacts Dr Omar Bin Abdul Monem Al Zawawi yesterday left here for Tokyo on an official visit.

The Omani envoy will represent his country in Osaka's international flowers exhibition currently taking place there.



# MPW counter-acting shifting sand dunes

## Highway networks being maintained

THE head of the Highway Maintenance Division at the Public Works Ministry Sharida Saad Al Azmi has said that the sand piles on external and internal roads has somewhat been brought under control. He added that wind-breakers have been set up to tell the direction of the wind and selected material used to counteract corrosion caused by sand while special chemicals were used to spray sand dunes to prevent them from moving.

He told a local daily that the ministry's primary concern is to protect its roads after construc-

tion and that there are special personnel assigned to undertake the needed maintenance services to support these structures against natural causes of corrosion and damage.

He said that the Roads Services and Safety Section provides protection to guidance signs set up on roads, and also replaces damaged signs while it followed up with contractors assigned to service problem areas with full commitment to their obligations.

He said that any depression or fissure sustained by roads will

require a deep study by specialists to determine the scientific causes underlying this phenomenon, adding that effective measures will be adopted based on the results of the study.

### Servicing

He said that the maintenance division has the capabilities and equipment to provide regular services to all highway networks in the country including bridges.

He added that specialised engineers are assigned to do daily checking of roads based on a

plan developed on a regular weekly basis.

Azmi stressed that the setting up of signs or traffic lights and even the construction of interchanges and provision of temporary roads contours all these tasks were done after in-depth studies, which primarily emphasise the element of safety to all road-users.

He pointed out that contours would be effected after joint studies performed in co-operation with the Interior Ministry and Kuwait Municipality and that no work will be authorised

except with the approval of all three agencies involved.

He said that the current road congestions marking the early morning and mid-day hours will hopefully be sorted out following the completion of the internal road network.

He urged all service ministries to optimise co-ordination between them to ensure speedy completion of works, avoid dislocation of traffic flow for delayed construction works and enforce strict penalties against contractors who leave piles of construction materials on work sites.



Chinese minister received

His Highness the Amir today received visiting Chinese Minister of Youth and Sports. The meeting was attended by Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, and president of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Jaber, and the Chinese ambassador to Kuwait.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cultural protocol

KUWAIT, April 16, (Kuna): Kuwait and Poland signed here yesterday an executive programme for cultural, scientific and technical co-operation between the two countries for the years of 1990-92.

The agreement was signed by Secretary-General of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Dr Farouq Al Omar and Polish Ambassador to Kuwait Witold Jurasz.

The programme stipulates in the culture and arts fields to encourage co-operation between the cultural associations in the two countries.

The agreement also stipulates in the education, higher education and scientific research fields that Poland would offer two scholarships every year for undergraduate and graduate studies for students from Kuwait.

The two sides also agreed to take appropriate measures before signing evaluation of certificates, diplomas and scientific degrees that would be valid for the duration of the two-year accord.

### Kuwait aid

DAMASCUS, April 16, (Kuna): A representative of the diwan of HH the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier arrived here yesterday to supervise delivery of Kuwait aid to Lebanon.

Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al Said Al Sabah told Kuna: upon arrival that the Kuwaiti government, at the instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, had decided to extend assistance to sisterly Lebanon to contribute in easing the Lebanese citizens' difficult living conditions.

Sheikh Mubarak, who was received on arrival by Kuwaiti Ambassador Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jasssem and a representative of the Syrian Foreign Ministry, said that the first convoy, grouping 20 truckloads of various medical materials and foodstuffs, will be delivered to the concerned Lebanese authorities at Al Masya town on the Lebanese-Syrian borders on Wednesday.

### Haj quotas

RIYADH, April 16, (Kuna): Saudi Arabia yesterday renewed its commitment to limit the number of pilgrims this year in proportion to the population of each Muslim state and determination to implement the decision reached by the 1988 Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference held in Jordan.

An official of the Haj and Endowments Ministry here told the Saudi Press Agency today that the kingdom was committed to the system of haj quotas approved by the Amman conference of Islamic foreign ministers.

"The Saudi government," the official was quoted as asserting, "rejects any attempt to weaken its determination to carry out this decision, which received absolute backing and respect of all Muslim states, except Iran."

### GCC-information

JEDDAH, April 16, (Kuna): The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Tripartite Ministerial Committee concluded its meeting here last night and presented a comprehensive report to the GCC information ministers who will meet next May in Riyadh.

Saudi Press Agency quoted the GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Yaquob Bishara as saying that the committee discussed a report presented to the GCC secretariat-general focusing on the foreign information field.

He added that the committee also discussed latest developments in the foreign information arena in addition to a number of memorandums and work papers on boosting foreign information co-operation among the GCC states.

### Heroin trader

The Criminal Court yesterday sentenced a man charged with trading in heroin to fifteen years in jail with hard labour with subsequent deportation and fined him KD30,000.



Paaet exhibition

Director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Muhallan opened yesterday the general exhibition of the authority's colleges and centres. The opening ceremony was attended by the authority's senior officials. The exhibition contained various items made by the students.



## Chinese minister of sports in Kuwait

KUWAIT, April 16, (Kuna): The visiting Chinese Minister of Youth and Sports yesterday began the programme of his three-day visit which is being held at the invitation of the chairman of the Asian Olympic Council Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed.

The programme of the minister, who arrived here last night, includes visits to a number of sports installations, including the new and old headquarters of the Asian Olympic Council.

The minister is also due to meet with Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed at Kuwait Football Federation headquarters to brief him with the preparations made by Beijing for the forthcoming 11th Asian Games.

During his visit to Kuwait, the minister will be received by His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

He will also meet with Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah and Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah.

In a statement on arrival, the Chinese minister stressed that preparations are going on for the Asian games to be held in Beijing next September.

He elaborated that some facilities which have been set up for the purpose are due to be completed by the end of this month, while others would be completed next month.

He hailed relations between Kuwait and China in all fields and emphasised the role of Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed in bolstering ties, particularly in the sports sector.

In a similar statement, Sheikh Fahd welcomed the Chinese minister's visit.

## Pressing need for sea museum: officials

### Costs estimated at KD15 million

COUNTRIES like Kuwait overlooking the Arabian Gulf enjoy a rare sea environment but fishing and oil excavations in the middle of the Gulf and along its sides have led to an imbalance. This was one of the main reasons why establishing a sea museum to preserve Gulf creatures was important.

In this frame Kuwait had proposed this project along with the waterfront plan, but due to the high costs of the project estimated at KD15 million, it was cancelled. There is still a pressing need for a mini sea project and a bigger size Gulf Museum shared by all Arabian Gulf states.

In this survey, the views of various officials were highlighted. Director of the Marine Agriculture and Fish Resources at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Dr Mohammed Abdullah Saif stated that the Arabian Gulf consists of 200 species of fish which branch into 2000 types of commercial and ordinary fish.

He added that the institute presented recommendations and technical consultation regarding establishing the Sea Creatures Museum Aquarium. He added that studies on this have been postponed due to high financial costs. He stressed that such a museum will be important to preserve Gulf creatures from extinction as a result of an increase in marine environmental activity.

### Specialists

He indicated that the museum could be treated as an educational and cultural institute for scientists and researchers.

With respect to the museum project site location and its construction, Dr Saif said that due to water re-circulation and filtration requirements, establishing the museum near the sea is best.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research is willing to assist in the field of scientific and technical consultations in addition to selecting the type of species that would be displayed for spectators. He added that a

special cold storage area should be provided at the site to store fish fodder.

Dr Saif said that the size of technical and administrative manpower required for the project depends on the size of the museum which requires an administrative director and a number of marine specialists. He pointed out that science graduates could be trained abroad or through special training courses to maintain and protect the museum and feed the fish. He said that the proposed museum included a sea food restaurant, ground halls and gymnasiums attached to the museum.

Dr Saif stated that as a result of the rapid increase in population in the Arabian Gulf area and due to a lack of environmental awareness on the importance of preserving a clean marine environment using legal fishing methods and due to oil excavation and pollution, establishing a sea museum aquarium is a must imposed by natural and environmental circumstances.

On the other hand, head of the organic chemistry department at Kuwait University Science College, Dr Jassem Mohammed Al Hasan said that the Marine Creatures Museum will fulfil citizens and residents cultural knowledge on sea creatures.

He added that despite the closeness between the sea and humans, sea environments are still a strange and unknown environment to many individuals. He indicated that due to nourishment problems, humans directed their efforts towards the study of the sea to search for other food resources. In addition many creatures living in the sea are used as a resource for medicine.

Dr Hassan stressed that due to scientific and economical factors, it is important to choose the museum location close to the sea. He added that indicating the estimated budget for the project depends on a number of items mainly, the structural design of the museum and the type of fish species to be displayed. In addition to these factors, the budget also depends on the type of devices and equipments applied in pumping and filtering water.

### 5 students dismissed

FIVE students were dismissed in Al Ahmadi Education Area, the director of the area Abdullah Al Loqman was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that these students were dismissed during the current academic year due to their attacks against teachers and in view of their unrepentant behaviour.

He clarified that some students' behaviour reflected their ill breeding, but he added that these students are few and do not constitute a phenomenon.

He added that attacks against teachers were reduced considerably during the last few years in view of the education awareness campaigns.



Bingo winners

The winners of Arab Times Bingo No 76 received their prizes on Sunday. From left are Vineet Sethi (First Full House), Marina Santana Fernandes (Second Full House) and Hamid Moosaa (Third Full House).

## 19 youths charged with assault

19 YOUTH of ages ranging between 17 to 28 years appeared recently before Kuwait's Criminal Court on the charge of persistently beating up a man, a local daily reported.

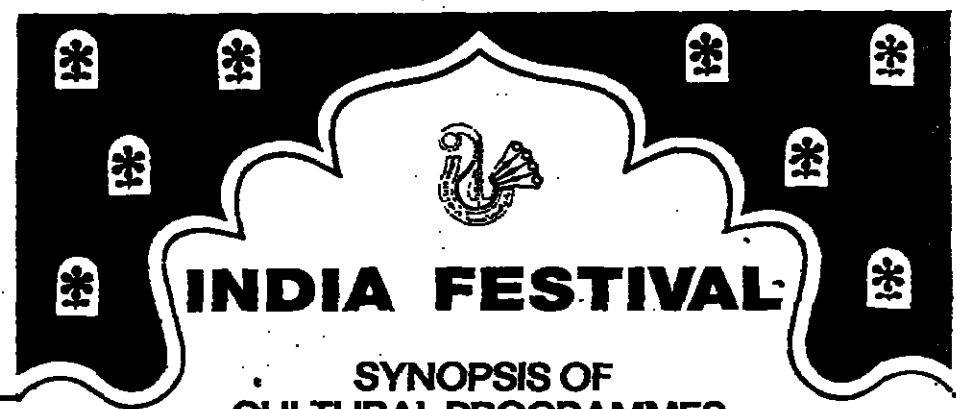
It added that the court which held its session under the chairmanship of Judge Khaled Al Wogayyan sentenced three youths identified as A.A., H.S. and A.H. to 42 months in jail.

The third one will be deported following sentence. The court acquitted the fourth defendant identified as A.J. and refrained from pronouncing sentence against the other defendants who were bailed out.

All of them however had to undertake a commitment of good behaviour for one year.

The court was told that one youth from Khaiteh area identified as M had stolen a dog from Sulabikhat area. The owner of the stolen dog told his friends about the incident who gathered immediately and decided to go to M's house to regain the dog, but he was not there.

When his neighbour asked them about the matter they felt that he was protecting M and they viciously attacked him causing several injuries in the face and the jaws.



## SYNOPSIS OF CULTURAL PROGRAMMES.

25th April '90 - 8 p.m.

26th April '90 - 10 a.m.

27th April '90 - 9.30 a.m.

28th April '90 - 10 a.m.

29th April '90 - 7.30 p.m.

30th April '90 - 7.30 p.m.

01st May '90 - 7.30 p.m.

02nd May '90 - 7.30 p.m.

03rd May '90 - 7.30 p.m.

04th May '90 - 4.30 p.m.

Inaugural Ceremonies  
Festival Hymn/Music of India/Festival  
Dance 'ODISSI DANCE - Rajjana Ganhar'  
State Cultural shows by:  
Gujarat/Kerala/U.P./Others.  
State Cultural shows by:  
M.P./Bihar/J&K/Rajasthan/Orissa/Tamil Nadu/  
Assam/Maharashtra.  
State Cultural shows by:  
A.P./Goa/Karnataka/Punjab.  
'ODISSI DANCE - Rajjana Ganhar'  
FESTIVAL QUEEN CONTEST  
FOOD FESTIVAL AIR-INDIA - HOLIDAY INN  
FED CELEBRATIONS  
FOOD FESTIVAL AIR-INDIA - HOLIDAY INN  
Dances of India  
Fashion Parade  
KATHAKALI DANCE DRAMA - RADHA MADHAVAN  
(DHANAJAYAN & PARTY).  
'BHARATHIYAN' DANCE DRAMA - KALYAMARDANA  
(DHANAJAYAN & PARTY)  
CLOSING CEREMONY - KAZMA STADIUM.

## Entry passes for Cultural Programmes and

Gate passes for exhibitions & food stalls available at:-

Air India - City Office  
Indian Arts Circle - Funaitees  
India Festival Office - Omar Al Khattab Str., Sharq.  
Kuwait India Exchange Co. - Kuwait & Fahahel

"To obtain concession benefits on above Entry passes and Gate passes obtain your Master Coupon first, which is also available at above locations."

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a signature or note.



# ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER tell your resolution beforehand — John Selden, English statesman (1584-1654).

## Zimbabwe 10 years on Race issue almost over

HARARE, (Reuters): Ten years ago, on April 18, 1980, they rolled up the Union Jack in Rhodesia, Britain's last and most troublesome African colony.

As Britain breathed a sigh of relief, Robert Mugabe inherited a new country called Zimbabwe, riven by the passions of a seven-year war in which more than 20,000 people died, most of them black.

Fears of chaos and bloodshed were widespread: thousands of whites, unimpressed by Mugabe's offer of reconciliation, "took the gap" and emigrated, mostly to South Africa.

Blacks, denied land, status and political power during 90 years of colonial rule, hailed Mugabe as the man who would turn them from servants into masters of their own country.

### Healed

A decade later, time has healed much of the bitterness of the war between nine million blacks and 100,000 whites, and race is no longer a major political issue.

Salisbury is now Harare and Rhodes Avenue has been renamed after guerrilla leader Josiah Tongogara, but much has stayed the same.

The optimists and the pessimists are still arguing over whether Mugabe's Zimbabwe is turning into a dream or a nightmare.

Doyen of the optimists is 82-year-old Sir Garfield Todd, a veteran liberal who was prime minister in the 1950s but was toppled by a swing to the right in white politics that culminated in the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) from Britain in 1965.

"It's a dream come true," New Zealand-born Todd told Reuters. "Of course nothing is perfect and the 10 years haven't been perfect either, but on the whole it's good."

He said Mugabe had succeeded in holding blacks and whites together in a way that looked impossible in the tense situation just after independence. "It was a conquest, there is no doubt of that — the blacks defeated the whites."

Todd said that after 10 years he saw "the beginnings of the disease of power" in Mugabe's intolerance of political opposition and his desire to legislate for a one-party state.

"The idea of a one-party state frightens me out of my wits," he commented.

### Unquestioned

Still the unquestioned champion of Zimbabwe's pessimists is the man who once locked up Todd and his outspoken daughter Judith for their opposition to white minority rule.

Ian Smith, the rebel leader of white Rhodesia who once promised that there would be no black majority rule "not in my lifetime, not in a thousand years," now lives quietly in Harare's suburb of Belgravia and on his farm at Shurugwi.

Mugabe's government still pays his pension, but 10 years have done nothing to soften his views.

"I think the worst has happened," Smith said in an interview with Reuters. "There may be peace but there's not much freedom. I don't like that."

Smith's complaint is that "these people" have ruined what used to be the "Jewel of Africa." "They have been living on the fact they inherited," he said.

Now busy writing his memoirs, the man Rhodesian whites called "good old Smithy" is at 70 an isolated figure.

He also opposes Mugabe's plans to make Zimbabwe a one-party state, though unlike Todd, he agrees with Mugabe that multi-party democracy is the wrong system for Africa. "It doesn't work anywhere... he's quite right."

Lawrence Vambe, 72-year-old author, ex-journalist and businessman who spent most of the UDI years in London, believes Mugabe's policy of reconciliation with whites will go down as his biggest achievement.

### History

"That will go down in history as the greatest achievement of almost any leader in contemporary Africa... Smith is here, the man who started the whole tragedy is here, living at the hospitality of Mugabe's government. I find that quite astonishing."

But he believes Mugabe's ideological rigidity has failed to create jobs for Zimbabwe's growing army of educated unemployed.

"We have missed our opportunities. The failure has been quite considerable."

Like many Zimbabweans, he feels the economically powerful whites have emerged the winners from Mugabe's first decade despite their loss of political power.

"I think the whites are much better off in this society under an African government. They have no political responsibilities, all they are doing now is to make money and live very comfortably," he said.

Mugabe's Zanu-PF Party, merged last year with the PF-Zapu party of Joshua Nkomo, won a landslide victory in last month's general election and Mugabe beat his challenger Edgar Tekere by a four-to-one margin to win a six-year presidential term.

The end of the Zanu-Zapu conflict, which pitted the majority Shona people against the minority Ndebele in the mid-1980s in a period of violence and atrocities, have given Zimbabwe internal stability.

White farming has been a success story, elsewhere the economy has stagnated, with hundreds of thousands of school leavers looking for jobs.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1492 — Ferdinand of Spain agrees to finance Christopher Columbus' voyage of discovery.

1521 — Martin Luther, critical of Roman Catholic church, appears before Diet of Worms and is cross-examined by Papal Nuncio, Cardinal Alexander.

1824 — Russia and United States define respective rights in Pacific Ocean and on northwest coast of America.

1895 — China and Japan, by treaty of Shimonoseki, recognize independence of Korea; China opens seven new ports and cedes Formosa, port Arthur and the Liaotung peninsula to Japan.

1943 — US bombers attack Palermo, Sicily, in World War II.

1961 — Cuba is invaded at "Bay of Pigs" by rebel forces which are defeated by Fidel Castro.

1968 — US protection for noncommunist Asia is pledged at meeting in Honolulu between US President Lyndon B. Johnson and South Korea's president Chung Hee Park.

1971 — Egypt, Syria and Libya sign agreement to confederate.

1973 — Cambodia's president Lon Nol announces resignation of his cabinet and appeals to all political groups to take part in council to solve nation's problems.

1975 — Communists take over rule of Cambodia's capital of Phnom Penh as Cambodian war draws to end.

1988 — Population control group says earth faces environmental catastrophe unless developing nations stem rapid over-population.

1989 — Afghanistan forces dislodge rebels from major land routes.

## Lantam to consolidate civilian rule

# S. Americans ditch radicalism

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, (AP): Pressed to the wall by foreign debt, feverish inflation and stagnant economies, South Americans are rejecting radicalism and turning to moderate leaders to consolidate civilian rule.

When Fernando Collor de Mello and Patricio Aylwin became the presidents of Brazil and Chile in March, it was the first time all 12 South American republics were governed by popularly elected civilians.

In the past, the continent swung between strident pro-leftists and right-wing dictators, each promising solutions to social and economic crises.

Now, South Americans are abandoning radical rhetoric and taking painful steps to put their economic houses in order.

"History reveals that stable and effective democracies are those that present centrist options to the electorate," wrote Manuel d'Ornellas, editor and columnist of the *Expreso*, a conservative daily in Lima, Peru's capital.

There is concern that if free-market economies and democratic freedoms don't produce quick social gains, a power vacuum will open and trigger a left-right tug of war.

### Experts

David Fleischer, regarded as one of the top political science experts in Brazil, cautioned: "South Americans have tried the dictators and the old-style conservatives. If this third group of free-market liberals goes down the drain, people will vote for the radical left in five years, which may well prompt a backlash from the military."

Fear of such an outcome already has translated into amnesty for past violations.

Uruguay and Argentina have pardoned military officers charged with human rights abuses. Brazil gave amnesty to leftist opponents of a 1964-1985 military regime, but did not consider prosecuting military chiefs accused of torture.

Leftist rebels have been released from jail and secret police agencies abolished.

As the political ceasefire between extremists continues, free-market policies are gaining the upper hand across the continent.

Uruguay's new President Luis Lacalle implemented International Monetary Fund austerity measures, hammered out an accord with the second-largest labour union and stood up to two general strikes by the biggest labour confederation.

Polls show Argentine President Carlos Menem is still far from the most popular political figure despite severe austerity reforms, waves of strikes and dissent in his own party.

In Brazil, surveys show Collor's harsh economic plan has the across-the-board backing of 80 per cent of the nation, while in Peru, studies say Peruvians are ready to accept a free-market economic shock to

end current inflationary chaos.

Government coddling of local businesses, promoted by military rulers concerned with national security, is giving way as Argentina and Brazil strive to create a South American common market.

Economic liberalism also has been fostered by concern that the foreign aid funds of the United States and other countries are being diverted increasingly to Eastern Europe.

Latin American and Caribbean countries will receive \$350 million in US aid this year, down from \$545 million in 1989.

Record inflation has given South American leaders the political leverage to take bold economic measures. Here is a brief country-by-country review:

— Brazil: Though Collor narrowly defeated socialist Luis Inacio Lula da Silva in December's runoff, he has mustered considerable public and congressional support for a Draconian plan that includes an 18-month freeze on 80 per cent of all bank and investment savings, sharp tax and utility hikes, cuts in subsidies and tax incentives and civil service firings.

### Shocked

— Argentina: To fend off hyperinflation, Menem shocked his labour-backed Peronist Party by hiking public service tariffs several hundred per cent, lifting wage, price and foreign exchange controls, confiscating bank deposits, slashing the government budget and moving to cut money-losing government enterprises.

— Bolivia: Former president Victor Paz Estenssoro brought 24,000 per cent annual inflation inherited from a leftist government in 1985 down to 16 per cent in 1989 by freezing prices and the exchange rate, closing up money-losing government tin mines and lassoing an oversized bureaucracy.

Socialist President Jaime Paz Zamora, Estenssoro's successor, recently announced conservative economic measures to attract foreign capital and sell state industries to private firms.

— Chile: Centrist President Patricio Aylwin says he won't discard the free-market structure set up by right-wing dictator Gen Augusto Pinochet, credited with keeping inflation down to 20 per cent a year and building the strongest economy in the hemisphere.

In an apparent referendum on Chile's economic strength, the left received only 23 per cent of the total vote in 1989 congressional elections — compared to 40 per cent before Pinochet's 1973 coup.

— Peru: Five years of economic chaos under leftist President Alan Garcia bankrupted the country, pushed the cost of living up to 2,775 per cent in 1989, and blackened relations with the International Monetary Fund.

Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, head of a conservative coalition, and centrist Alberto Fujimori are in a runoff election to succeed Garcia.

— Venezuela: Re-elected President Carlos Andres Perez, outwardly leftist when in office a decade ago, recently announced IMF-like economic reforms. Dubbed "perestroika" by some, the measures are designed to restructure the foreign debt and steer the country along a free-market path.

Guyana and Surinam: Mountain foreign debt, sharp declines in economic output and rising unemployment are forcing socialist leaders to shift economic gears.

### Conflict

Guyana's Prime Minister Hamilton Green now says "private enterprise doesn't conflict with socialism." His party has vigorously sought foreign capital and imposed unpopular fiscal measures to get a 1-billion-dollar bailout from the IMF.

— Ecuador: Though President Rodrigo Borja favours government-fixed exchange and interest rates, the centre-leftist has welcomed foreign investment, kept the state's hands off major industries and declared himself an opponent of "inefficient" state-run enterprises and Marxism.

A disastrous showing by liberals in 1988 parliamentary elections and two failed general strikes are reminders of the left's weakness.

Doubts linger about how long South America's new moderates can convince the poor to swallow these austerity measures.

Venezuelans, weaned on 30 years of state subsidies, have already erupted in bloody protests. Riots last year left 300 people dead and recent protests over utility and gas hikes led to violent crackdowns on college campuses.

In Brazil, observers give Collor six months time to stop the 4,850 per cent annual inflation rate before his can-do image crumbles, and similar rumblings are being felt in Colombia and Guyana.

"If solutions don't come from within the system, people might look for solutions outside the system," warned Federico Storani, a leading Congressman with the opposition Civic Radical Union in Argentina.

But many experts say these moderate leaders most probably will weather the storm.

There is growing public perception that conservative economic measures are the only way to cure chronic stagnation and inflation, and, unlike Eastern Europe, the move to free-market economics appears based on practicality rather than ideology.

"The changes in East Europe are telling us something: ideologies in the world have ended," Argentine President Menem told reporters recently. "The world wants to live in freedom, wants to be master of its own destiny."

## Defections cost Peres govt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Labour Party leader Shimon Peres faced a precarious political future after his failure to form a new Israeli government on Wednesday revived the ghosts of numerous past failures.

Only hours after the 66-year-old politician confidently told members of his party he was assured of approval for a new government, his majority dissolved in last-minute defections.

"This man Shimon Peres has been the next prime minister for the past 10 years," satirist Meni Pe'er joked presciently on the eve of the Labour leader's latest disappointment.

The disastrous session of Parliament resurrected Peres' image as the man who failed to secure a win while leading Labour into the last four national elections. He was given 15 days for another attempt to forge a government.

### Background

Unlike most Israeli leaders, Peres is a machine politician rather than a pioneer or a war hero — a background that has contributed to a reputation for scheming.

But while he has sought power, he has also searched for peace with Israel's Arab neighbours — a quest that has won him more friends in Washington and Moscow than in his own country.

Peres pledged that his government would immediately endorse a US proposal for unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

The future of those talks, which Peres hoped would end the 28-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, was left as uncertain as his political career.

The Polish-born Peres was groomed for his office by David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founding prime minister, and was intimately involved in his nation's development.

He became party leader in 1977 when Yitzhak Rabin resigned as prime minister in a financial scandal. Within weeks, Labour suffered its first election defeat.

Peres again lost to Likud in 1981. In 1984, an inconclusive election resulted in a coalition government in which Labour and Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party rotated key offices.

During his stint as prime minister in 1984-86, Peres reached a record 74 per cent popularity rating with Israeli voters for pulling Israeli troops out of Lebanon and slashing inflation from 444.9 per cent to under 20 per cent.



## Letters to the editor

### Save our country

SIR: People are busy in their daily chores of business, traffic is at its usual pace, two, three children are looking at the showcase of a toy shop, suddenly from nowhere a white car appears, and a Kalashnikov (AK-47) starts pumping bullets, for a moment nobody knows what happened, the whole scene of peace and tranquility has been transformed into chaos.

This scene happened last Thursday, April 3. The firing spree continued from dusk to dawn. The culprits escaped, police came and arrested the victims for no apparent reason.

### Example

This is a classic example of the day to day life in Pakistan's largest city of Karachi. These things started during the reign of Zia. When he started losing support because of his dictatorship, he embarked upon a divide and rule strategy. Ethnic differences were fuelled, armed robberies became common practices.

There was an incident in which an armed mob attacked and burned innocent people to death. This genocide went on for eight hours and no police arrived on the scene. Later on officials denounced the act and the chapter was closed. Not a single arrest was made.

Since the dawn of democracy people saw a new era and everybody hoped that things will change for the better. For some time there was peace, as the new PPP

government took over the reins of power. After a while there were attacks on those who didn't support the PPP during the elections, armed robberies were committed in broad daylight, kidnappings for ransom and corruption attained new dimensions.

It is on the record that one of the provincial ministers of justice is directly involved in armed robberies and in breaking into Sukkur jail to free inmates.

There was a scandal of radioactive milk import in Pakistan and distributed to the local market in which our prime minister's husband Asif Zardari was directly involved.

Two nurses in a medical hospital were raped, and later harassed. A lady doctor Miss Fauzia Bhutto was raped and murdered by a PPP official and nobody would dare to touch him.

In all the above cases no action was taken. We, the residents of Karachi and Hyderabad don't know who to turn to as our prime minister has already said several times in her interviews to the BBC that "we have controlled the situation in the rural areas up to 60 per cent, but as far as urban population is concerned i.e. "Karachi and Hyderabad" we don't have any representation, so we cannot do anything."

### Responsible

These are the words of a prime minister, who should be responsible for the welfare of the whole country, as she took the oath, and not to punish the people of Karachi and Hyderabad for supporting MQM, which

is the sole representative of the people of Karachi and Hyderabad.

MQM was a coalition partner in the beginning, when PPP needed their 14 seats, to prove majority, but as they gained access to power, they forgot their promises and MQM had to break away from them.

MQM leader Altaf Hussain who is on hunger strike since April 8, 1990, has demanded the release of all innocent people from police custody and take some firm action to stop this genocide of the people of Karachi and Hyderabad.

This is an appeal to Amnesty International, as well as all the democratic countries of the world, who value human life. Please send your representatives to my country, so they can see with their own eyes, what the hell is going on.

Please take some action, otherwise another "killing fields" is in the making.

Shamim Pervez Haider, Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

## Liberian rebels prove mettle

GANTA, Liberia, (Reuters): By ambushing a train under the nose of Liberia's top general, a band of rebels in T-shirts firing home-made bullets have shown they may not be the push-over President Samuel Doe once claimed.

The April 6 attack on the train which hauls vital iron ore exports from northeastern Nimba County to the Atlantic took place just eight km (five miles) from army headquarters under a road bridge that troops were supposed to have secured.

Military sources said the ambush, together with the fall in late March of the strategic town of Tapeta was a setback to Doe's 5,000-strong army which they described as undisciplined and poorly trained for anti-guerrilla jungle warfare.

### Ambush

News of the ambush came as Brigadier-General Charles Jusu, the head of Doe's presidential guard, was telling reporters that his men were in control of the road which passes the railway.

The army assured the Limco Mining Company that it could come to retrieve its crippled train the next day because troops had secured the area.

So when the soldiers riding shot-gun on the rescue locomotives the next morning saw men standing on the bridge in the distance they assumed they must be army.

Instead they were greeted by about 35 rebels who blasted away with AK-47 rifles and shot-guns firing home-made steel bullets which tore through the locomotives' steel sheeting.

Doe has ordered the line reopened but trains were still not running by the second week of April.

Officials and diplomats do not believe the insurrection yet poses a direct threat to Doe who has survived many coup attempts since he seized power in 1980, toppling the tiny elite of descendants of freed American slaves who settled Liberia in the 1820s.

But the rebel successes have come in the face of government assurances that the army was in control.

### Battalions

Doe threw two battalions into Nimba after a rag-tag "invasion force" of some 100 Liberian dissidents crossed from the Ivory Coast in late December to overthrow him.

The rebels, who the government said were trained in Libya, killed officials and members of Doe's Krahn tribe. But their failure to open a promised second front in the capital Monrovia soon had the government saying it had blunted the invasion and was "mopping up."

Only last month Doe said the army was no longer fighting the original rebels but "disgruntled elements" of the population. Since then the rebels have pushed west up to the Ganta-Monrovia highway and south to Tapeta cutting the road to the southeastern third of the country.

"From the way the rebels have been able to strike at different places in the past few weeks there would appear to be more than a 100 of them," said one African diplomat.

Nimba residents say local people have gone over to the rebels because they allege members of the Krahn-dominated army have killed civilians, mainly young men of the rebels' Crio tribe, and looted and burned homes.

Jusu said he had no knowledge of soldiers killing civilians nor of indiscipline in the army.

"My men are well trained, well disciplined," he said at his makeshift headquarters.

Some 150,000 of Nimba's 350,000 inhabitants have fled to Guinea and the Ivory Coast and many have sought shelter in the bush.

### Civilians

Human rights groups said hundreds of civilians have died and the United States, Liberia's biggest aid donor, has expressed concern about the killings.

Doe has threatened to execute soldiers caught killing civilians.

Towns such as Ganta, which had a population of 20,000 before the uprising, are now virtually empty. Fleeing residents said soldiers had taken most of the food and valuables. They said they feared being picked up by groups of marauding soldiers who were sometimes drunk.

The only haven from army patrols in the town was the leprosy hospital where soldiers were afraid to go, the residents said.

Villages along the highway were shuttered and deserted and the few vehicles travelling the road ran the risk of rebel ambushes. Soldiers at one checkpoint just outside the town were drinking cheap local gin and schnapps as they rummaged through a traveller's suitcases.

Acting Information Minister Moses Washington told reporters in Monrovia that the rebels had been contained and the army was "mopping up."

Military sources and residents, however, say the army is either reluctant or incapable of hunting down the rebels in the jungles and rubber plantations which cover this corner of West Africa.

"They stick to the towns and the main roads... leaving the rest open for the rebels," said one source.

## QUOTE ME

"Today I felt good because the breaks were not more than 10 minutes each. The conditions were tough today but we have had three good days. I felt pretty good because I thought I played as well as I could under the circumstances." Stefan Edberg after beating Jim Grabb for the semifinal in the Japan Open.

"We are looking to the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers to take decisions that will restore the republic's position to that of March 10, 1990." A letter by Gorbachev and Ryzhkov to the Lithuanian Parliament.

"I thought the conditions were really bad out there and I am too upset to talk about it. It is the back of the shoulder, I strained or pulled a muscle. We will see tomorrow, but my guess is it should go away." Ivan Lendl after cruising into the semis of the Japan Open Tennis Championship.

"As regards to the formation of a new government, his majesty approved the idea submitted by Mr Singh that it should not be delayed any longer. And in case his majesty is not prepared to head the government, permission be granted to the multi-party leadership." An official Nepal government statement on democratic reforms in the country.

"The playing conditions were very, very bad. I didn't understand it. It affected both of us. It was very unfair to both of us. With all respect to the tournament, I have more important things ahead of me and I'm not going to go out there in the rain and risk injury. All things combined, it was very difficult and unfair. I would rather have played tomorrow (Saturday)." Ivan Lendl on conditions at the Japan Open Tennis.



# Charity should start at home, says Dole



Dole (right) has a few brief words with Senator Ted Kennedy, April 15 (Reuters wirephoto).

## US must take care of its own homeless before giving money to Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 16. (AP) — Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said yesterday that America had to take care of its own homeless before giving money to Israel to house Soviet immigrants.

"Charity starts at home and that means America," Dole told a news conference here.

"We are going to give \$400 million to Israel for housing guarantees when we have 1 million homeless in America and no program for them," Dole added.

Dole also said yesterday that he had concluded from his tour of the Middle East that a Senate resolution on the status of occupied Jerusalem was ill-timed and used as a diversion to forestall peace efforts.

Dole is the Bush administration point man in attempts to reduce all foreign aid,

an action that would greatly affect Israel, which receives \$3 billion annually from the United States as the largest recipient of American foreign aid.

The Jewish state is seeking an additional \$400 million in US government guaranteed housing loans to help absorb the onslaught of Soviet Jewish immigrants. Israeli officials say as many as 500,000 may immigrate over the next three years.

The prospect of mass immigration has terrified the Arab world ever since Israel's caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir suggested earlier this year that Israel needed to retain the occupied lands to settle the wave of Soviet Jews.

President George Bush made any US aid for immigration purposes conditional on an Israeli guarantee that the money would not help settle Soviet Jews outside

Israel's 1967 borders, including occupied east Jerusalem.

Bush stated early March that Israeli annexation of the eastern half of the city was not valid. Israel has declared occupied Jerusalem its capital.

The Senate passed a non-binding resolution March 22 confirming that occupied Jerusalem should be Israel's capital.

But Dole protested the Senate decision and said he was going to state his position on Senate floor Wednesday.

"I conclude (the resolution) was ill-timed," he said. "All it does is stir up rhetoric. The Arab countries only wanted to discuss the resolution and not the peace process."

Dole claimed that occupied Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek agreed that the Sen-

ate decision came at a bad time and served no useful purpose.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, called Senate Dole's intention to protest the Senate resolution "insulting."

Dole headed a delegation of five US senators whose visit to Israel was the last stop on a Middle East tour to promote peace.

Others in the delegation were James McClure, R-Idaho; Alan Simpson, R-Wyoming; Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska; and Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.

The Senators, reflecting on Israel's current political crisis, stressed that the country urgently needed a government that would launch peace talks with the Palestinians.

## New settlement in Gaza Strip

### Curfew on Abu Jihad' versary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 16. (AP) — Israel's Defence Ministry gave the Gaza Strip settlement Dugit the go-ahead to move yesterday, Israel television reported.

Dugit will be one of the few Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, home to more than 700,000 Arabs. Yossi Ahimeir, head of the caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's bureau, confirmed that the settlement would be grounded soon.

In the next few days the settlers plan to lay the foundations of Dugit, a settlement meant to be only temporary, Israel television said.

The move comes after a long bureaucratic process, an Israeli wire service, Ilim, said. Apparently Michael Dekel, appointed by Shamir to implement the building of the new settlements, intervened in the drawn-out process of obtaining permits, Israel television reported.

### Future Palestine

## 'Singapore of ME'

TUNIS, April 16. (Reuters) — Wealthy Palestinians, responding to an appeal by PLO chief Yasser Arafat, said yesterday they were laying the economic foundations of a Palestinian state that could become the Singapore of the Middle East.

About 100 wealthy Palestinian businessmen said in a statement they had "paid particular attention to the construction of the national economy of the future Palestinian state."

"Our decades-long struggle should permit the emergence of a modern, just, free and independent state with a modern and efficient economy," the statement issued at the end of a two-day meeting said.

Arafat urged the businessmen on Friday to start building the economic foundations of the future state.

"On my recent visit to Japan, I did not ask for financial aid, but that Japan (should) train Palestinian technicians so that the future Palestinian state will be a kind of Singapore or South Korea of the Middle East," a statement, published in Tunis, quoted Arafat as telling the businessmen.

The Tunis meeting recommended that studies be pursued with the PLO's economic department to establish "priorities for programmes being prepared for the future."

It approved the creation of the Palestinian development and credit institution to finance or participate in projects in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The military government in the occupied territories and the Justice Ministry, which controls land purchases, had to give permission to start the settlement.

Michael Dekel could not be reached for comment.

Ahimeir said Dugit was one of the eight settlements the right-wing Likud Party leader Shamir and central-left Labour Party leader Shimon Peres compromised on when they formed their joint government.

Since Shamir's re-election in November 1988, three of the eight were founded. Ofirim and Tsores were inaugurated last May 10 in the West Bank and Kfar Darom started about the same time in Gaza.

Dugit is not the only Jewish settlement to start this week.

In the old city of East Jerusalem yesterday paramilitary border police guarded another settlement of a different kind.

It was a building in the predominantly Arab Christian quarter taken over by 10 Jewish nationalist last Wednesday.

The group believes that Jews should live all over Jerusalem.

Their occupation has sparked riots by Christian Arabs, demonstrations by left-wing groups, and protests in the occupied territories.

The Jerusalem district court has ordered the settlers out of the building, but the decision is being appealed.

As acting defence minister of the transition government Shamir now has the power to realize settlements former Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin postponed.

Since capturing the West Bank and Gaza during the 1967 Middle East war, Israel has built 143 settlements which are home to some 75,000 Jews. About 1.7 million Palestinians live in the occupied lands.

An additional 120,000 Israelis have been moved into a string of neighbourhoods built in the Israeli-annexed sector of Jerusalem, where some 140,000 Palestinians live.

Security forces clamped a curfew on most of Gaza Strip yesterday confining more than 700,000 Arabs to their homes.

An army spokesman said that the entire Gaza Strip would be closed indefinitely from early Monday morning to prevent demonstrations marking the death of the PLO military chief Khalil Al Wazir or Abu Jihad.

The Islamic World League (IWL) yesterday called on Muslims to support and back their Palestinian brothers in the occupied Arab territories so they can continue their steadfastness and struggle against the Israeli occupation.

The fighting ebbed into sporadic skirmishes 10 days ago, when a three-man committee of neutral Christian mediators backed by the Vatican called the latest ceasefire on April 5.

"The roar of the guns today is sharpening fears of renewed warfare," said Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir of the Maronite Catholic community, the largest Christian sect in Lebanon, in an Easter sermon at the chapel of his seat in Bikiri, north of Beirut.

He warned that a new round of full-scale fighting would finish off the Christians, saying that more than one half of them have already fled the enclave.

"What are you fighting for. There is nothing to gain except scorched earth," Sfeir said in the sermon that was broadcast live by several Christian-controlled stations.

He urged both sides to "bring back life to the country by returning to legitimacy and constitutional establishments."

He said that the PLO's "direct and indirect threats against Arab nation in general and Iraq in particular, the threats of the Soviet Jewish migra-



An ultra-orthodox Jew yells at a Jewish 'Peace Now' supporter holding a placard April 15 (Reuters wirephoto).

## Call to probe Aden party

ADEN, South Yemen, April 16. (AP) — Some 6,000 demonstrators took to the streets for the second night Saturday to protest the defeat of Aden's governor in last week's elections by the municipal council.

They called for investigations within the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party, charging that the elections were rigged and that favouritism was practised by a bloc within the party.

The demonstrations Friday and Saturday night took place after the dusk meals with which Muslims break daylong fasting in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. On both nights they were dispersed peacefully by the police.

The demonstrations spotlighted a split within the party. One wing is dominated by YSP Assistant Secretary-General Saleh Mohammed. The other, led by Dr Seif Sayel, call themselves the Fataheen, after the killed YSP leader Abdel-Fattah Ismail.

The former saw their protégé, the incumbent Governor Naji Othman, defeated in the municipal council elections by Othman Kassarani, a member of the Fataheen.

The demonstrators argued that the elections were to have been held in November when Othman was the only candidate. But the procedure was postponed for months until other candidates emerged.

Ismail died in the 12-day civil war of January 1986 between rival wings of the party in which former President Ali Nasser Mohammed was deposed.

The new party leader or secretary-general is Ali Salem Al Beidh, who together with Saleh Mohammed had emerged since then as the strongest of the country.

Al Beidh last week was defeated in a motion within the party leadership when he sought to double as head of the ruling party president, effectively the head of state, in place of President Heider Al Attas.

Al Beidh had wanted to be on equal footing with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh with whom he is leading plans to merge their two countries by next November.

In general, demonstrations and strikes have not been known in the Marxist country until recent months when Al Beidh introduced an opening up policy in line with the perestroika of Soviet Union's Soviet allies.

held West Bank, and have been consolidated by the Soviet Jewish immigration threat.

Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah Horani, two PLO executive committee members in Amman preparing Arafat's visit, have reiterated the PLO's wish for a confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state.

The Central Committee of the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement held a meeting in Tunis last night headed by Arafat.

Palestinian sources said the meeting reviewed the results of Arafat's recent visits in France, Italy and Czechoslovakia.

### MIDEAST BRIEFS

**Former Moroccan Premier dies:** Hadj Ahmed Balafrej, a leading Moroccan nationalist, former prime minister and foreign minister, has died after a long illness, an official source said on Sunday. He was 82.

Balafrej, who died on Saturday night, was for many years secretary-general of the Istiqlal Party which spearheaded the nationalist campaign for independence during the French protectorate which ended in 1956. He was foreign minister in the first two governments after independence from 1956 until 1958 when he was appointed prime minister, a position he held for seven months. (Reuters)

**Islamic groups threaten:** A Muslim militant group threatened on Sunday to avenge what it called a Jewish attack on a Christian patriarch and church property in old Jerusalem. Islamic Jihad-Beir Al-Maqdis said it was infuriated by Israeli police action against Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros and the settlement of 150 Jews in a building in the walled city.

The same group claimed responsibility for killing nine Israeli tourists in an attack on a bus in Egypt in February.

"We announce that this assault will not pass for nothing and it will either be a victorious jihad (holy war) or martyrdom," a spokesman for the group told Reuters in a telephone call. (Reuters)

**Saleh taps Marxists:** North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has accused radical Muslim and Marxist groups of working against a merger with South Yemen planned in November. (Reuters)

**Holocaust memorial visit:** Members of the Berlin Philharmonic on an unprecedented tour of Israel visited Jerusalem's memorial to Jewish victims of Nazism on Sunday.

The orchestra headed by conductor Daniel Barenboim and accompanied by Berlin mayor Walter Momper laid wreaths at the Yad Vashem memorial and silently reviewed the exhibit, Israel radio said.

The fact that the Berlin Philharmonic came now to Israel might open the door and help to start relations between East Germany and Israel, Barenboim, an Israeli citizen, said in a radio interview.

East Germany apologized last week to Israel and world Jewry for the Nazi killings of six million Jews during World War II. "That is a very big breakthrough," Barenboim said. (Reuters)

### Amman police recover

## 1,200-year-old mosaic

AMMAN, April 16. (Reuters) — Police posing as art dealers have recovered a 1,200-year-old mosaic floor ripped from one of Jordan's desert castles.

Sadly, it was far from intact.

Robbers stole the 30 square meter (35 square yards) Islamic mosaic from Qasr Al-Hallabat on April 1 in an unprecedented theft which shocked those trying to preserve antiquities vital to archaeologists and the tourist trade.

The theft has opened the eyes of Jordan's antiquities department to the vulnerability of 5,000 ancient sites scattered over Jordan's 98,000 square km (38,000 square miles).

"These hooligans were semi-professional thieves who caused almost irretrievable damage to portions of the mosaic," Ghazi Bisheh, director of the department, told Reuters.

The thieves, who apparently hoped to sell their haul to private collectors in Jordan, hastily glued the mosaic to canvas before lifting it in sections.

They damaged all but three small panels depicting birds and animals, Bisheh said.

Italian specialists in the mosaic school at Ravenna, due in Jordan soon to work on mosaics in Madaba, south of Amman, will be consulted on how to restore the mosaic floor from Hallabat.

The antiquities department's limited budget pays for guards at some famous monuments, such as the rock-carved Nabataean city of Petra, but only half a dozen are protected around the clock.

In many cases the department has covered mosaic floors with tons of earth to preserve them from the weather and predators.

Previous antiquity thefts have been on a fairly small scale.

"We have lost some pottery to tomb robbers and a few carved stone capitals, but no one has tried to strip a mosaic floor before," Bisheh said. "It's a very dangerous precedent."

Most items looted by amateurs had little intrinsic value but could yield vital clues for archaeologists if

left alone, he said.

Tourism Minister Abdul-Karim Kabarti said hundreds of treasure-hunters were active, many armed with old maps and metal detectors, searching for gold hoards rumoured to have been left behind by the Ottomans who ruled the area until World War One.

"Jordan is an open-air museum," he told Reuters. "There is a flourishing demand for antiquities and in our present economic situation people are tempted to make money by selling them."

Kabarti said he would like to introduce stiffer legal penalties for stealing, trading, faking or defacing antiquities.

Jordan is ill-equipped to track small-scale losses. A few major remains taken by archaeologists and explorers over the past century are known to be in western museums.

One beautifully carved Islamic facade from Mushatta Palace near Amman went to Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II as a gift in 1903. The 27-metre (90-foot) long facade from the late Omayyad period — the Omayyad Dynasty lasted from 661 to 750 AD — is now in the Pergamon Museum in east Berlin.

The Louvre Museum in Paris has the Mesha Stele, showing a Moabite king, found at Dhiban in 1867 by Frenchman Clermont Ganneau. Bisheh said.

In 1906 an Austrian traveller attempted to remove the Fresco of the six kings from the Omayyad bath-house complex at Amra, 85 km (53 miles) into the desert east of Amman.

He succeeded only in damaging the Fresco, which shows busts of a Byzantine emperor, the Sassanian King Kishra, the Visigoth King Roderic, the Negu of Abyssinia and two others thought to represent the Emperor of China and the Khaqan of the Turks.

A French draughtsman is now painstakingly tracing the work of Amra's Omayyad artists as part of a drive to preserve and document the site, on UNESCO's World Heritage list since 1986.

### Resolution

## Kolek disagrees with Dole

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 16. (Reuters) — Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kolek says he did not agree with US Senate Republican leader Robert Dole that a Senate resolution recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital should be repealed.

"I was surprised to learn that you referred to our conversation to justify your intention to propose to the Senate that it rescind its recent resolution on Jerusalem, an action I fully oppose," Kolek said in a telegram to Dole.

On Friday Dole told journalists that the resolution was detrimental.

"Mayor Kolek ... believes that Jerusalem should be the capital (of Israel) but he also said he agreed, in fact told us yesterday morning, that the resolution was ill-timed, it served no useful purpose," Dole said.

Kolek said his comments to the Senators referred to an earlier US resolution.

"I did discuss with you and your colleagues a resolution taken some years ago concerning moving the (US) embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem which was never acted upon, thereby only showing the power of Arab blackmail," he said in the telegram.

Dole co-sponsored the non-binding resolution on Jerusalem which angered Arab states and Palestinians who view the city as the capital of their future state.

"I found as we travelled to some of the Arab countries they all wanted to talk about this resolution instead of the peace process," Dole said.

"We were getting off the track. So I'll make a statement out on the Senate floor in detail on Wednesday," Dole added.

The United States has repeatedly said that the status of Jerusalem should be negotiated with Palestinians, who have demanded that it be the capital of their would-be independent state.

## Algeria bumpy road to new era

ALGIERS, April 16. (Reuters) — Interior Minister Mohammed Salah Mohammed vowed yesterday to crack down on violence in the run-up to Algeria's first free elections.

"Without order there can be no democracy," he declared as disputes and rivalries sprouted along the bumpy road to a new era.

Interior Ministry figures disclosed yesterday that independent, muslim fundamentalist and the ruling National Liberation Front have swamped candidate lists for the June voting, which will elect more than 15,000 provincial and town councillors.

Other new parties lag in building a national base. Some are crying foul and calling for a boycott.

"The conditions under which these elections were prepared were not democratic since we did not have the means to compete ... in such a short time," said an official of one of the small newcomers, the communists avant-garde Socialist Party.

President Chadli Benjedid, who launched democratic reforms after youth riots in October 1988, has turned down pleas for more time. He already postponed the elections once, from December.

In a rush of pre-election disturbances the state-run press blames Muslim zealots for attacks on women, a discotheque and restaurants open during the sunrise-to-sunset fasting hours of the holy month of Ramadan.

Violent clashes have also broken out between factions of the National Liberation Front, which monopolised political power since independence from France in 1962.

"The government is absolutely determined to combat vigorously acts of violence, especially when they seek to influence other people's behaviour," the interior minister told a press conference yesterday.

A system of proportional representation being used in the voting favours the big parties.

Ministry figures distributed through the official news agency APS showed that the NLF and the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front were the only parties to nominate candidates in all 48 provinces.

The ministry statement carried by the Algerian news agency APS said three other parties — the liberal National Party for Solidarity and Development (PNSD), the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the moderate fundamentalist Party of Algerian Renewal — had filed nominations in most provinces.

But none of them would contest more than a quarter of the 1,541 town councils.

Independents will be running almost everywhere. Some are local notables but opposition parties suspect many are stalking horses for the FLN, whose reputation has been damaged by accusations of corruption and mismanagement.

Several opposition parties have urged a boycott, saying the poll cannot be free as long as the FLN controls the government, Parliament, most of the media and a huge state budget.

Hocine Ait Ahmed, a hero of the independence struggle who heads the Socialist Forces Front, says elections for an assembly to redraft the constitution should be held before the town and provincial polls.

"The FLN has openly grabbed the lion's share of the financial, material and information resources of the nation," Ait Ahmed wrote in the current issue of the opposition paper Librie Algerie.

"I've got to go. I've got a lot to do. I'll see you tomorrow," McCarthy told his friend Jill Morrell in a phone call to London one day before heading for Beirut airport for a flight to England.

McCarthy, 33, a journalist with World Television News, was seized by gunmen on April 17, 1986, as he drove to catch his plane two days after an air raid on Libya by US jets based in Britain. Tripoli denounced Britain's role.

On the same day McCarthy was kidnapped, three hostages, an American and two Britons, were killed by their captors to avenge the raid.

Unlike most of 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups, no one has claimed responsibility for seizing McCarthy. No videotapes or Polaroid photographs have been released showing him in captivity.

## Beirut Easter under gunfire

### Rivals reinforcing

BEIRUT, April 16. (AP) — Church bells vied with bursts of gunfire in East Beirut yesterday as thousands of Christians celebrated Easter amid fears of new full-scale fighting for mastery of their enclave.

Police said troops of renegade Gen. Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces militiamen of Christian warlord Samir Geagea clashed intermittently, fraying a tattered ceasefire.

Snipers duelled from the upper floors of shell-pocked skyscrapers in the Badaro and Sinn Al Fil districts while troops and militiamen traded hit-and-run grenade assaults in the streets below, said a police spokesman.

The firing drowned out church bells ringing in neighbouring districts and many people were too frightened to venture out for Easter mass, said the spokesman.

Both sides were reinforcing their frontline position elsewhere in the 310-square-mile (800-square km) enclave, setting up earth mounds and barricading roads with overturned trucks and barbed wire, the spokesman said.

No casualties were reported in clashes. Aoun's 19,000 troops

and Geagea's 6,000 militiamen have fought each other since Jan 30, killing 875 people and wounding 3,376 in an inconclusive struggle for control of the enclave, home for one million Christians.

The fighting ebbed into sporadic skirmishes 10 days ago, when a three-man committee of neutral Christian mediators backed by the Vatican called the latest ceasefire on April 5.

"The roar of the guns today is sharpening fears of renewed warfare," said Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir of the Maronite Catholic community, the largest Christian sect in Lebanon, in an Easter sermon at the chapel of his seat in Bikiri, north of Beirut.

He warned that a new round of full-scale fighting would finish off the Christians, saying that more than one half of them have already fled the enclave.

"What are you fighting for. There is nothing to gain except scorched earth," Sfeir said in the sermon that was broadcast live by several Christian-controlled stations.

He urged both sides to "bring back life to the country by returning to legitimacy and constitutional establishments."

He said that the PLO's "direct and indirect threats against Arab nation in general and Iraq in particular, the threats of the Soviet Jewish migra-

## Arafat, Hussein to discuss Arab summit, Soviet Jews

AMMAN, April 16. (Reuters) — PLO chief Yasser Arafat said he would discuss prospects of convening a special Arab summit and ways to counter an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel with King Hussein when he visits Jordan early this week.

In an interview with the state-run news agency Petra, Arafat said the Arab conference should be convened before the US-Soviet summit is held at the end of next month.

He said talks in Jordan would cover "the direct and indirect threats against Arab nation in general and Iraq in particular, the threats of the Soviet Jewish migra-

tion to occupied Palestine and bilateral ties."

"Jordan and south Lebanon will be the first to be affected by this programmed Jewish migration," he said. "The immigration is a demographic bomb inside the Arab body."

Amman and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) share a sense of danger from the migration to Israel which they fear might force a mass exodus of Palestinians as a Palestinian homeland.

More than 750,000 Soviet Jews are expected to go to Israel over the next five to six years.

Jordan-PLO ties have warmed since July 1988, when Jordan relinquished its claim to the Israeli-

held West Bank, and have been consolidated by the Soviet Jewish immigration threat.

Mahmoud Abbas and Abdullah Horani, two PLO executive committee members in Amman preparing Arafat's visit, have reiterated the PLO's wish for a confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state.

The Central Committee of the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement held a meeting in Tunis last night headed by Arafat.

Palestinian sources said the meeting reviewed the results of Arafat's recent visits in France, Italy and Czechoslovakia.



## EVENTS

# Black is beautiful

A MUSICAL tribute to the hero of political change in South Africa, Nelson Mandela, will be the theme of next concert of the Afro-Arab Friendship Group.

The 'Black is Beautiful' concert, scheduled for the first week of May, also celebrates the changing political climate in Africa, and the hope that has emerged after the release of Mandela.

The Afro-Arab Friendship Group planned the concert when Mandela was still in jail, and Namibia had not gained its independence. Now, when the concert will take place, Mandela is out and is seen as the greatest hope of Africa and Africans; Namibians have at long last freed themselves from the yoke of colonialism. To them, the group dedicates its concert. And through Afro, Soul and Reggae sounds, the group's singers, including lead vocalist Steve Michael, will pay a tribute.

The singers will be backed by The Afro Beat Band, group of African musicians. An Afro-American member of the group has composed a special song that will be dedicated to the Palestinian freedom fighters. Bob Marley songs and original music written by Steve Michael will also be presented. For the first time in Kuwait, the audience can listen to African music and see dancers from Sierra Leone and Ghana performing on the Kuwait stage.

The concert will be held at the Basketball Stadium, Al Arabi Sports Club, Mansouriya, on May 3. Tickets—priced KD4 and KD1—are now on sale. (See what's on for details).

The 7-Up Bottling Company will serve free soft drinks throughout the evenings. Gulf Air has given an air ticket Kuwait-Nairobi-Kuwait to the holder of a lucky entrance ticket, which will be drawn during the show's interval; other winners will receive Sharp electronic products.



## WHAT'S ON

### ARTS

#### Kaleidoscope

A colourful spectrum of British and American 20th century music — including: Britten, Copland and Sandberg. Frances Coad — voice; Trevor Platt — piano. On April 18th at the British embassy. For more information Tel. 5318060 ext 19, 8 am-1 pm.

#### Sultan Gallery

Furniture of Kuwait, pre-1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery; daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

### SOCIAL

#### May Queen

Goan Welfare Society will crown the May Queen at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Thursday May 10 from 9 pm onwards. Top Ranks in attendance. For further details Tel: 4881387 or 5618971.

#### Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a live contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 431 5425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

#### Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fanned lac bangles and beautiful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

#### Cosmos Summer Nite

From Kuwait Cosmos on 10th May 1990, at lawns of Hunting & Equestrian Club. (Pool-side) from 21.00 hrs into dawn dancing to the beats of: Hurricane Alley & Next of Kin. Highlights of the evening: Cosmos Summer Nite special, table surprise, novelty dance, ballroom, dance competition. Valuable gifts in store and not forgetting an exotic buffet of your choice. Please collect your invitations from undermentioned: Vincent Pinto, 4887140 or Dama D'Cruz, 5623621.

#### Airline night

The airline staff launches its second annual get-together at Ramada Al Salam Hotel (Le-Mirage Grand ballroom) on Thursday the April 26, 1990. An evening with live music by top bands, fashion parade, etc. limited reservations. Please contact Celestino, tel. 2420631/2420661 or any staff on 5652073/2429277 (Cynthia).

#### Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

#### Daniella Dhow Trip

Daniella invites all Danes to go on a dhow trip on Friday, May 4. For registration please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

### Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

### Cine Club

Tuesday, 17:4: "Sunshine." Dir. by Stanley Kubrick. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Wednesday, 18:4: "Czech Cartoon Muttet and Cley Show." Screening to be held at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium.

Sunday, 22:4: "Indiana Jones and the Last Adventure." Dir. by Steven Spielberg. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Tuesday, 24/4: "Once Upon A Time In America." Dir. by Sergio Leone. Screening to be held at the Kuwait Towers.

Note: Screening at 9.30 pm.

### APPROB Eid dinner venue changed

THE venue of the Gala Eid Milan party of the Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has now been changed to the Sheraton Hotel, Ballroom-A to accommodate more guests, an APPROB press release said.

The Gala Party will be held on Friday 27th April. It will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes. There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of 10. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact: 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

### British Council

DENNIS, Wednesday, 18 April 5.30 pm; Thursday, 19 April 10.30 am.

The only problem with Dennis is that everything he does always ends in disaster for his long-suffering parents and neighbours. No wonder everyone calls him the Menace! Nine episodes that will have children hollering with laughter!

### Career and Vocational Guidance

Goan Welfare Society will conduct a seminar on Career and Vocational Guidance on April 20, 1990 at 5 pm, at the Indian Embassy auditorium. All Goan students from standard IX, X, XI are invited to attend along with their parents.

Professionals will speak on specialised topics such as engineering, architecture, interior design, computer science, hotel management, banking and medicine. For further information please contact Bras Silveira on tel. 4849006 or Rudolph Fernandes tel. 2438011.

### British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents The Dancer is the dance & dance is life

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm, Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm, Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm, Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee), Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm. Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm — 6 pm Saturday — Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am-12 noon.

### Saligocars

CALLING all Saligocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloos Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401, Res. 2412337.

### Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Kottani Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

### PAC postpone programme

We inform all our well-wishers that due to sudden demise of the father of our Secretary, Public Relations, our programme, scheduled for 27th April, has been postponed. The new date is being fixed and we hope "inshallah" to arrange a splendid programme during the month of May, 1990. All cards already issued are to be replaced by new one and we sincerely regret any inconvenience caused to our well-wishers and the registered families of PAC.

The fourth-coming programme to be held in a beautiful atmosphere of brotherhood and we shall invite all the association in Kuwait. The programme is designed to attract all literary and social circle. The first part of the programme will be an inauguration of a new book by Poet Hamid Kartarpuri, followed by a Mushaira of selected poets of Kuwait. The second part after a short break will comprise of variety of music and ghazals by prominent singers. For further details please contact Tel. Nos. 5323693, 4716258, S. Hamid Mahmoud, Secretary Public Relations.

### Black is Beautiful

THURSDAY, MAY 3rd 1990: A tribute to Nelson Mandela titled "Black is Beautiful" an Afro — Soul and Reggae concert featuring Steve Michael and The Afro Beat is scheduled at the Basketball stadium of the Al Arabi Sporting Club, Mansouriya, from 8 pm.

An airticket — Kuwait-Nairobi-Kuwait from Gulf Air, Electronic equipment from Sharp, a special offer from Showbiz etc are added attractions.

Limited tickets are now available on sale at: Showbiz: 5726729

Al Arabi Club: 2652726  
Swan Lake Rec: 5721030  
Art Corner: 2665068  
Soft Rock Cafe: 2405648  
Image Recording: 2405859  
White House: 2476660  
Family Book Shop: 571430  
Modern Sports: 5748684

### Entertainment City

Kuwait Entertainment City is running a free bus service from Kuwait City to the Entertainment city and back on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the month of Ramadan. The bus starts on both days from opposite the Meridian Hotel at 8.00 pm and returns back from the Entertainment City to the same stop at 12.00 midnight.

### Konkani Theatre

May 10-11: Goa's famous king of centuries, Rose Ferns and his 15-member troupe will present his new premier release Xinxé at 7 pm (May 10) and again at 4 pm (May 11) and another drama Biman Tum which is nearing the century mark at 10.30 am May 11 at the Granada Cinema, Kheitan. Sit in AC comfort with stereophonic and special light and sound effects. Plans open Sunday, April 15. Passes available at Raja Stores Tel. 2413970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506 and Alex Martins, An Expatriate Club presentation.

### Baisakhi di raat

Punjabi cultural society is celebrating "Baisakhi di raat" a harvest festival at Indian Arts Circle. Funfair on Thursday 19th April 1990 at 7.30 pm. For entry passes contact Tel. 5635089, 5628051, 5630897 and 5616287.

### HOTELS

#### Kuwait International Hotel

LA PALMA: Opens at 6.00 pm for an elaborate Iftar buffet with traditional specialties of your choice. Desserts prepared by our Arabic pastry chef. One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Ext 8166.

LA PATISSERIE: Opens for take-away treats at 5.00 pm and stays open for Suhour until 2.00 am. Live entertainment in the lobby sets the mood for the evening. Ext 8014.

OUTSIDE CATERING: Whether it is for you and your family or for friends and associates our outside catering facilities can cater to all your needs. Offers traditional Iftar buffet suggestions. Banquets will be pleased to assist: 2530000 ext 8008/8000.

#### Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

#### Kuwait Plaza

SPECIAL Ramadan Activities: Al Dallah coffee shop features authentic Iftar with sumptuous dishes, mezza, sweet, Ramadan drinks and a special buffet.

NOURA TERRACE: Surrounded by man-made waterfalls and green scenery offers all kinds of light meals, juices, Ramadan drinks, bubbly-bubble and trick track in an open air atmosphere. open from 8 pm until 2 am.

LOLOWAH CORNER: Invites you to spend an evening out with your family. Enjoy all kinds of Kuwaiti and Arabic sweets with variety of delicious beverage and live entertainment. Open from sunset until 2 am.

### Ramadan at Messiah Beach Hotel

ALMUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes. Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghabga & Sohaur: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohaur buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

### Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialties such as: Khandari Tikka Mal Mali Kebab, Navratan Briyani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carryaway pick up's from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tele. 2425131/2.

### SPORTS

#### Apollo Fitness Centre

ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch — Sun and Wed — 10.30 - 11.30 am; Apollo Workout — Sunday — 5.30 - 6.30 pm, Tuesday — 5.00 - 6 pm; Fast 'n' Fizzical (mixed) — Friday — 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness — 4.00-5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) — 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop — 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts — Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo — Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga — enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

#### Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics ongoing for all levels or play including junior, ladies' and adult sessions with Frank Novak, an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Look good, feel great! Ladies' sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9 am to 9 pm. Austrian instructor for swimming lessons. Courses start first week of every month.

#### Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

#### Hyderabad Sports Day

The committee for sports for celebration of 400 year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) is organising a sports day on 27th April 1990 (or next day of Eid) at Juleeb Al Shuwaikh ground (behind Juleeb Al Shuwaikh cinema). The schedule of programme is as follows:

9 to 12 am: Festival cricket match for veterans.  
12 to 2 pm: Break for prayer and lunch.

2 to 5 pm: Sports for ladies, children and agents.  
5 to 6 pm: Formal inauguration of the festivities.

The events are open for all present and former residents of Hyderabad and their families. No entry fees will be charged. Festival cricket match is open for veterans above 40 years (relaxable to 35 years). All veterans are requested to register their names with Dr Naidu (Tel: 4842578). All Hyderabadis are requested to attend the sports day and inaugural function with families and friends in large numbers.

### CINEMA

Al Andulus  
Rolling Vengeance

Al Sahmiyah  
The Survivorist

Al Hamra  
The Lost Platoon

Drive-In  
Arabic film

Al Firdous  
Sikka

Fahaeel Open  
Khuda Kasam

Fahaeel  
Time Burst

Al Jahra  
Mastan

Granada  
Peruvannapurethe Visheshangal

Salaibikhat  
2019 After the Fall of New York

Jleeb Shato

Ahmadi Drive-In  
Arabic film

### PRAYERS

Fajr 3.57 am  
Zahr 11.48  
Asr 3.22 pm  
Maghreb 6.16  
Isha 7.36

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

### TELEVISION PROGRAMME

#### KTV 1

1.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
1.30 World Animals: cultural serial  
2.00 Kabool Adventures: cartoon serial  
2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: historical serial (part 15)  
3.10 Human Health: cultural programme  
3.35 Maraya 88: Arabic serial (part 5)  
4.15 Rasael Al Ekha: local programme, prepared and presented by Dr Najeeb Al Refai and Dr Nader Al Nouri  
4.30 Rafat Al Hajjan: Arabic serial (part 22)  
5.30 Hadeeth Deen: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Merwalli Al Sharawi  
6.15 Baada Al Iftar: religious programme  
6.30 Mazenger: cartoon serial (part 15)  
7.00 Madeenat Al Ajayeb: local children's serial (part 22)  
7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements  
8.15 A Religious Symposium  
9.00 Juhayna: cultural programme (part 15)  
9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: local programme  
10.00 News in Arabic  
10.45 Lil Hayat Baqiya: local serial (part 6)  
11.45 3x3: local variety programme  
12.30 Layali Al Helmiya: Arabic serial (part 6)  
1.15 Daleef Al Marsa Al Zakaya: Arabic feature film, starring Fuad Al Mohandes, Samah Anwar and

Ahmad Abdul Aziz  
3.00 News summary  
3.055 The World Today via Satellite  
2.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

#### KTV 2

8.00 Opening, announcement and Holy Quran  
8.10 A cartoon series for children  
8.30 Night of the Red Hunter  
9.00 News in English  
9.30 Welcome Ramadan: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan  
9.45 You and the Law: A weekly local informative programme on Law and regulations enforced in the State of Kuwait  
10.00 Faith and Science: "Overeating" A look at foodstuffs and the contents of nutrients such as vitamins, protein, carbohydrates and minerals.  
10.30 Horizon: "The New Sixth Sense" A new device is developed which can be used in medical and industrial testing and detection...  
11.45 Murphy, Brown: "Nowhere to Run" Murphy plans to hold an investigation about a fraudulent general prosecutor who threatens her boss Miles Wolf. "On the Run" The attorney asks Tony to find a baller dancer, but when he finds her both of them become chased by her husband.  
1.15 News in Arabic  
1.30 Mazenger: cartoon serial



### Awam Dost hold iftar party

M. Sharif Minhas and his comrades (top) gave a feast for their followers (bottom) at Dal Chawal restaurant in the city. Many friends attended the iftar party.



### Emirates VIP welcomed

The Deputy Managing Director of Emirates Airlines, Sheikh Sultan Qiyab Al Nahyan was recently in Kuwait on an official visit. He was welcomed at the Kuwait International Hotel by the Resident Manager, Antoine Sayagh.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Saudi Arabia seeks joint-venture partner in Asia

## Saudis, Japan moving closer to oil deals

### Unlicensed bank chief arrested

TAIPEI, April 16, (Reuters): The head of one of Taiwan's largest unlicensed banks and his bodyguard have been arrested on charges of abetting violence and making threats against investors, police said today.

A police officer said Ting Lei-miao, chairman of the Fortune Group, and his bodyguard, Chia Pei-tsun, were arrested yesterday at a hotel owned by their company after a three-day police stake-out.

Both Ting and Chia, who also served as the group's public relations manager, were handed over to prosecutors today for further questioning.

Police said they had evidence that Ting ordered Chia to beat up some investors who had tried unsuccessfully to get their money back from the company.

They said Chia and possibly other company security personnel chased investors, smashed their cars and fired guns into the air to scare the investors off when they staged a protest at the company's hotel in February.

The group last October suspended all interest payments, causing thousands of people, some of whom had invested their life savings, to hold a series of protests at company offices.

The Fortune Group, which offered payments of four per cent in monthly interest, had collected \$2 billion from small investors.

The group stopped operating after a new banking law was passed in July, 1989, and the government cracked down on unlicensed investment houses. The law prompted over 100 underground investment houses throughout the island to shut their doors.

### Trade union calls off strike

RABAT, April 16, (Reuters): A nation-wide general strike planned for Thursday by the radical Moroccan CDT trade union federation has been called off.

Noubir Al Amaoui, secretary-general of the Confederation Democratique Du Travail (CDT), said at a news conference in Rabat the stoppage was called off after the government agreed to discuss the union's grievances.

He said the government had agreed to a permanent dialogue with the union.

Announcing the strike on April 9, the CDT demanded a dialogue with the authorities, the reinstatement of people sacked after strikes, wages linked to the cost of living, revision of income taxes and other benefits.

Claiming 200,000 members and allied to the main opposition party, the socialist union of popular forces, the CDT last called a general strike in 1981 which degenerated into widespread violence and vandalism in Casablanca.

Over 100 people were reported killed in the disturbances and hundreds of rioters were jailed. Amaoui and other CDT leaders were arrested but released after a year, and the Supr's daily newspaper Al Mouharri was closed down.

### IMF proposals rejected

KHARTOUM, April 16, (AP): A senior official said Sunday that Sudan does not intend to accept the economic reform programme proposed by the International Monetary Fund. The next round of talks between the government and the IMF start May 5.

Col. Salah El Din Karrar, a member of the ruling 15-man military council, was quoted by Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper as saying that the military government will only accept its own economic reform programme.

The IMF declared Sudan ineligible for loans in 1986. The military government, which came to power June 30, has already held two inconclusive rounds of talks with the new administration.

"We will not back out on our economic programme whether there is agreement or disagreement with the IMF," Karrar said.

He gave no details of the government's programme other than saying that it was a counter-proposal to an IMF proposal. But he said a recent IMF proposal to devalue the Sudanese pound was unacceptable.

Karrar said the IMF had proposed that the official exchange rate be increased from 4.5 Sudanese pounds to the dollar to 15 pounds to the dollar. The IMF also proposed that the tourist rate be increased from £12.10 to the dollar to £30 to the dollar.

TOKYO, April 16, (Reuters): The idea of Saudi Arabia invading Japan's downstream oil market once evoked images of a desert marauder here. Now it conjures visions of a long-sought oasis.

Fear that oil reserves outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) are drying up is making Japanese refiners eager to secure stable crude supplies from the Gulf, oil industry officials said.

Japanese refiners are scrambling to strike direct deals with Saudi Arabia, which claims the world's largest proven oil reserves, as concern grows about possible shortages later this decade, they said.

Direct deals refer to long-term deals struck directly with producers. In the past, Japanese refiners have bought much of their oil through traders.

But faced with forecasts of a new oil crisis, they are courting Middle East oil

producers, especially Saudi Arabia, with promises of a stable market and participation in the Japanese downstream — the marketing of refined products — in return for guaranteed supplies.

"If you take a long-term view and prepare for bullish oil markets in the 1990s, I don't see why refiners shouldn't zero in on Saudi Arabia and go for direct deals," said Tsutomu Toichi, chief economist at Japan's Institute of Energy Economics.

"The Saudis also want to boost business with Japan. They want to lock in their oil sales in Asia in addition to Europe and the US. Their immediate target is to return to the position of Japan's top crude supplier," Toichi said.

Recently the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has supplanted Saudi Arabia as the largest crude exporter to Japan.

Saudi Arabia says it has the globe's largest proven reserves of 252 billion barrels. Its ability to offer a wide range of crude from extra light to heavy grades is also attractive to Japanese refiners.

In the past, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has used the threat of participation by Saudi Arabia in refining and marketing in Japan to force Japanese oil firms, fragile by world standards, into fewer, stronger groups.

But MITI is now focusing more on long-term supply security, especially since experts point to the increasing role of Opec producers as stable suppliers.

An official visit to Tokyo by Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer in January gave impetus to a strengthening of ties between the world's largest oil exporter and the world's second-lar-

gest oil consumer.

MITI officials say they are speeding up efforts to forge closer links with Gulf producers, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE. Industry analysts estimate these three have more than 45 pct of the world's proven oil reserves.

Naoki Kuroda, director-general of MITI's petroleum department, recently told Reuters he will confer with Saudi Arabian officials in June on Saudi entry into Japan's downstream market as part of several rounds of planned informal talks.

The Saudi Oil Ministry and MITI are seeking a reciprocal arrangement through which Saudi Arabia offers stable oil supply in exchange for a secure market and downstream participation.

World crude oil prices tumbled last week, but Japanese refinery officials say they are looking further into the

future.

Cosmo Oil Co Ltd started buying crude oil under a direct deal with Saudi Arabia this month following the lead of Idemitsu Kosan Co Ltd which signed a term contract last October.

Oil industry sources said Nippon Oil Co Ltd may consider contracting to buy directly from Saudi Arabia in the future. It started lifting 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) through Caltex Petroleum Corp, a 50/50 joint venture between majors Chevron Corp and Texaco Inc.

Saudi Arabia is seeking a joint-venture partner in Asia to refine its own crude and sell petrol and other products.

One of Japan's problems is that it has no single company able to match the functions of oil majors, which explore for, develop, produce, transport, refine and market oil.

"The Saudis are not expeting a quick conclusion. First they want to make good friends who can guide them into the downstream market," a source familiar with Saudi Arabian business said.

Saudi Arabia's joint venture with Texaco to refine and sell oil in the US, called Star Enterprise, posted revenues of \$6.3 billion in its first year ended last December.

Saudi Arabia wants to launch similar operations in Japan, oil sources said. It hopes to reach basic agreement with MITI by the end of the year to pave the way for Saudi investment in a refinery, said an oil industry manager who visited Riyadh earlier this year.

MITI wants to link Saudi investment in Japan with extension of oil concessions held by Japan's Arabian Oil Co Ltd in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait into the next century.

Pressure building on Gulf to cut output

## Gulf ministers to review oil market

NICOSIA, April 16, (Reuters): Oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates will meet in Jeddah tomorrow to discuss the world oil market situation, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

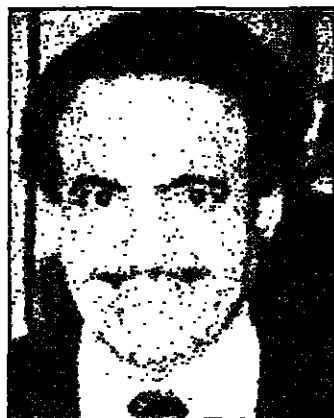
It said the meeting was part of consultations between members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to review the recent drop in world oil prices.

Oil ministers of Opec members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq are also planning to meet in early May to discuss market and price developments.

The 13-member organisation is set to meet in Geneva on May 25 but the ministers, concerned at the sharp price falls, are holding private consultations ahead of the meeting.

Soaring output by Opec was cited as the main reason for over-supplied markets. International crude prices have slumped in the past week as the perception grew that world markets were awash with oil.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi said last week the drop in oil prices since the start of the year of around \$2.5 per barrel showed



Hisham Nazer  
the negative impact of Opec over production.

Chalabi told a local daily that demand for Opec oil was considerably lower than the group's production capacity.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said the fall in oil prices was worrying Saudi Arabia and the kingdom was contacting other Opec members to maintain quotas.

The official Saudi Press Agency today quoted Nazer as saying "the kingdom of Saudi Arabia is worried about the deterioration in oil prices in the

world market."

In New York, the prized US crude West Texas Intermediate WTI briefly plummeted to \$16.25 a barrel on Wednesday, more than \$7.5 below levels seen last January and the lowest in 14 months.

Gulf official and oil industry sources said the sharp decline in prices, triggered by reports that Opec pumped a 10-year high of over 34 million barrels a day, has caught members of the organisation by surprise.

The minister said Saudi Arabia "is abiding by the Opec ceiling and members' quotas was very important."

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is currently holding necessary contacts with members of the organisation to cut the production to the limited ceiling," Nazer said.

"The kingdom hopes these contacts will help to restore market stability."

Gulf Arab producers, accused of flooding a saturated oil market, are under intense pressure to cut output and prevent a price crash, Opec officials and oil industry sources said yesterday.

"They are... in the firing line," said a senior Gulf Arab oil

official.

But, like many other sources interviewed by Reuters, the official said Opec's main output quota busters — the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and to a lesser extent Saudi Arabia — opposed any urgent meeting of the group's 13 oil ministers.

"What the Gulf states are more likely to do is to quietly turn down their taps a little... and that would be done on a voluntary basis," said the official who declined to be named.

World oil markets are getting a bitter taste of the effects of a market free-for-all that reminded poor producers like Indonesia and Nigeria of the 1986 crash when prices tumbled to below \$10 per barrel.

In New York, the prized US crude West Texas Intermediate WTI briefly plummeted to \$16.25 per barrel on Wednesday, more than \$7.5 below levels seen last January and the lowest in 14 months.

It then recovered to stand nervously at around \$18 per barrel on reports the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries might act and on traders' fears of being short of supplies for the Easter holidays.

### US official supports drilling projects

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, April 16, (Reuters): US interior secretary Manuel Lujan yesterday gave tentative backing to controversial proposals to drill for oil on the coastal plain of the Arctic national wildlife refuge.

"I think we can develop that, if there is oil to explore, in an environmentally sensitive manner," he told the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce.

Lujan, in Alaska to tour breaches and communities affected by last year's Exxon Valdez oil spill, declined to give a timetable for the development, but he said the US government hoped it would receive revenues in 1993 from leasing lots.

Congress will decide whether drilling rigs will pierce the tundra of the 19 million acre (three million hectare) wildlife refuge in northeastern Alaska, he said.

Lujan said public opposition to drilling there and had snowballed since the Exxon Valdez spill in Prince William Sound, the largest in US waters.

Since the 1970s public opinion has swung from favouring US oil independence at any cost to the current view of environmental protection at any cost, he said.

Lujan said he will not cancel offshore drilling leases for Bristol Bay in southwestern Alaska, as environmentalists and the region's fishermen have requested.

Bristol Bay fishermen argue that the world's richest salmon fishery should be protected from oil development because of the risk of an oil spill.

### Japanese group wins control

PARIS, April 16, (Reuters): French fashion house Jean-Louis Scherrer yesterday became the latest luxury goods firm to fall under Japanese control.

Scherer said the Japanese department store and hotel group Seibu-Saison had set up a joint company with French leather goods and fashion group Hermes and bought a 76.5 per cent stake of his haute couture, licensing and ready-to-wear business.

The sale price was not disclosed. With Seibu owning 65 per cent of the new joint company and Hermes 35 per cent, the Japanese group effectively controls Scherrer's business.

Jean-Louis Scherrer, whose feel for rich ethnic fabrics and colours regularly wins him glowing press reviews, will devote himself entirely to designing while a new manager will run the company.

Scherer's decision to surrender his independence was prompted by a desire to compete internationally with his aggressive rivals along with intimations of mortality.

### Share trading on the rise

RIYADH, April 16, (Kuna): The total amount of traded shares reached SR1.455 million during the first quarter of 1990, compared to SR635 million during the first quarter of 1989, showing an increase of 129 per cent, according to shares index for the first quarter of 1990.

The total of traded shares reached 5.3 million during the first quarter of 1990 compared to 3.6 million shares during the first quarter of 1989, with an increase of 47 per cent, the index shows.

Riyadh Daily said the total of concluded transactions during the first quarter of 1990 reached 30,400 compared to 21,900 for 1989, achieving an increase of 39 per cent.

The daily exchange rates reached SR23.5 million, 85,000 shares and 490 transactions during the first quarter of 1990.

As for the activities of the market sectors during the first quarter of 1990, the bank sectors — the value of the traded shares of banks amounted to about SR96.8 million, that is 55 per cent of the total traded shares in the market. The number of traded shares for this sector was 883,000 and the transactions 1,180 that contribute 39 per cent of the total transaction.

Dollar firmer

## Tokyo share prices dip in thin trade

TOKYO, April 16, (Reuters): The dollar closed a lifeless session firmer and share prices dropped in anemic trading today in Tokyo after Easter holidays overseas.

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, buying was tentative and diffused as players remained jittery over the wobbly yen. Individuals and investment trust funds were heavy sellers.

"A lot of people are waiting at the sidelines to sell," said Mike Morizumi, a strategist at Merrill Lynch Japan.

The key 225-share Nikkei index crumbled 750.74 points or 2.57 per cent to 28,463.18 after shedding 409.28 on Friday.

Turnover was a paltry 230 million shares, the lowest since August 1988. It was 320 million on Friday.

Brokers stressed that the market's decline today was exaggerated by the lack of players.

"With such thin trade it's easy to have major intra-day swings (in prices)," said Warren Primhak, a trader at Baring Securities (Japan).

In the equally sluggish currency market, the dollar was aided by growing expectations that Wednesday's US trade data for February will show an \$8.6 billion deficit after January's \$9.3 billion.

The shortage is expected to come via increased aircraft exports resulting from the end of the Boeing company strike, as well as decreased oil imports, dealers here said.

But many dealers preferred to wait until the data is out.

"Trading is very subdued," said Michimasa Soga, a Norichukin bank dealer. "At the moment, no one wants to move the market widely either way."

The dollar ended at 159.42 yen and 1.6751 West German marks after 158.70 and 1.6725 at Friday's New York close.

Investor and speculative buying helped boost the currency, but the upside was capped at 159.45 yen by profit-taking and brokerage selling.

"The market has no momentum today," said Hiroshi Murata, assistant general manager at Sumitomo Bank.

Many dealers here agree an upward trend for 160 yen may be seen when overseas players come back after Easter holidays.

Gold bullion was quoted around \$375.85 here on Friday.

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## Record profit for Arabic

Total assets growing

RIYADH, April 16, (Kuna): Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corporation (Arabic) has posted a record of net profit exceeding SR 1 billion, the Jeddah-based Arab News reported yesterday.

Three Saudi riyls are the equivalent of one US dollar.

In its first full operation year, the company, the 12th bank in the kingdom, earned SR1,027 million, almost double the SR588.2 million net profit it achieved in 1988, though its operation that year was for nine months and 13 days only.

The board of directors announced that of the profit achieved SR 150 million will be distributed to shareholders at a rate of SR20 a share, SR257 million for statutory reserve, SR600 million for general reserves and SR99.6 million will be transferred for next year.

Arabic revenues during the year under review totalled SR1.4 billion, up 66.3 per cent over the previous year, while its expenses were controlled to SR402.1 million, or a 48.1 per cent increase. The company has a total of 4,681 employees, 30.6 per cent of them Saudis.

Total assets amounted to SR16.7 billion, an increase of 11.4 per cent, while customers' deposits totalled SR12.4 billion, up 5.1 per cent, while customers' deposits totalled SR12.4 billion, up 5.1 per

cent during the same period.

Total amount invested in trading and murabaha was put at SR14.4 billion, up 22.6 per cent from the previous year. Of that a figure of SR570 million was allotted for murabaha inside the kingdom, which could be classified as loans and advances.

Most interesting, Arabic did not put a figure for provisions for possible credit losses.

In the third quarter, it provided SR53.6 million for possible loan losses, which implies that it is not anticipating problems.

Meanwhile, about 90 per cent of Saudi Arabia's imports and more than 95 per cent of exports pass through seaports, facilitating a deep-rooted link between seaport efficiency and national economic activity.

Despite the tremendous growth during the last year, in the volume of import and export cargo, which leapt from about 19 million deadweight tons in 1978 to more than 67 million deadweight tons a year ago, the Saudi ports have succeeded in fulfilling their role.

During 1988, the European countries have been the primary source of imports to the kingdom. They have accounted for 40 per cent of the total, followed by the countries of North and South America with 30 per cent.

## Demand for cement declines

RIYADH, April 16, (Kuna): Cement market in the kingdom is considered to be the biggest of its kind — the Arab Gulf region and the Arabian peninsula.

The drive to build the kingdom's infrastructure led to the flourishing of cement industry and trade in the kingdom.

For a long time, the cement market has swung between increases and decreases in demand and the years from 1973 to 1985 witnessed a huge increase in the demand and the years from 1973 to 1985 witnessed a huge increase in the demand to the extent that local cement factories have failed to meet the growing demand for cement and led to an increase in the volume of imported cement.

Due to the fierce competition with the imported cement, the local cement factories found themselves obliged to cut down their production and prices.

Scherer's decision to surrender his independence was prompted by a desire to compete internationally with his aggressive rivals along with intimations of mortality.

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BUSINESS  
Slovenia set for economic reforms

**BELGRADE, April 16, (Reuters):** Yugoslavia's most Westernised republic, Slovenia, is set to install in power anti-communists who advocate market-oriented economic reforms that could oust changes in the rest of the country.

Western and Yugoslav experts welcome the planned Western-style reforms but say they could deepen the chaos in Yugoslavia's economy if they are implemented too quickly.

Slovenia, which borders Austria, Italy and Hungary is the richest of Yugoslavia's eight republics and provinces and accounts for almost a third of the country's exports and a fifth of its national product.

The experts say the democratic opposition in Slovenia (Demos), which has a huge lead in partial unofficial results of elections on Sunday to Slovenia's parliament, could create an economic system radically different to the rest of the country.

Confusion would grow if Demos, a six-party anti-communist coalition that pledges democratic changes, carried out the threat of some of its leaders to secede from Yugoslavia.

"It could be a disaster for both parts of the country if Demos gets a complete mandate and if they go ahead with plans to secede," a Western diplomat said.

It would be difficult for the country to operate with two different economic systems, with reforms in one part and the continuation of autocratic centralised rule in the other part.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic has launched reforms to try to tame a year-on-year inflation rate of about 2,600 per cent. The communist government says inflation has started to fall and many loss-making factories face the threat of closure.

But economic experts say it will take time to wipe out the resistance of middle-level bureaucrats and to make people brought up in the last 45 years of unchallenged communist rule think like capitalists.

Demos has not yet formulated its final economic policy but it advocated market-oriented reforms throughout its campaign for the first multi-party election in Yugoslavia in 52 years.

It proposes privatising all firms that show promise and closing loss-makers, and is expected to reform more rapidly than the communists have done under Markovic.

"We will decisively move towards market reforms but without links with the federal government," Jozse Pucnik, Demos' candidate for Slovenian president, told reporters. "For this we need our own legislation."

A Western envoy said: "Demos is ready to shoot off at great speed. They don't have a real, coherent economic policy yet but they'll go faster than the snail's pace of communist reform."

Economic experts say Slovenia appears to be carrying out more strictly than others Markovic's orders to cut bank lending and stop bailing out loss-makers.

"The Slovenes seem more efficient at weeding out the bad plants. They may have decided it's better to get rid of the weak plants now and get going more quickly on a market economy," a Western economist said.

But economists say Slovenia has similar problems to the rest of the country, including a heavy reliance on cheap bank loans to save struggling firms and over-manning in industry.

In the Slovenian city of Maribor, Yugoslavia's second biggest industrial centre, firms that were once held up as models are now facing bankruptcy.

Demand for its main products, mostly construction machinery, trucks and industrial and household machines, dropped as Yugoslavia slid deeper into crisis during the 1980s.

"The key problem is what we call socialist blackholes," a Slovene economist said.

Companies hope to sell noodles to E. Europe, Moscow

**TOKYO, April 16, (Reuters):** Japanese and South Korean companies are hoping that instant noodles will soon join such staples as borscht and goulash on the dining tables of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

If successful, this would mark yet another conquest by a product dreamed up slightly more than 30 years ago as a method of marketing cheap and abundant American wheat.

In the latest assault, Japan's Toyo Suisan Kaisha plans to ship 30 million packets of noodles annually to Eastern European countries and has targeted the Soviet Union in particular.

It plans to ship 20 per cent of the production of a US factory due to start operations in June, a company spokesman said.

"This is a big challenge for us, because both Eastern and Western Europe are virgin markets for us," he said. "But demand there is expected to be strong, because the population of the Soviet Union alone is 1.5 times greater than that of the United States."

The US market for instant noodles has grown rapidly to \$300 million a year from nothing 20 years ago, the spokesman said.

"Instant noodles have become the best-known Japanese food in the world. Even Sushi and Soya sauce are only popular in some parts," said Tsutomu Kobayashi, an official at the Japan Convenience Foods Industry Association.

Some 13 billion packets of instant noodles a year are sold in 80 countries, association figures show.

Nissin Food, the company that pioneered instant noodles, also plans to export the product to Eastern European countries beginning next year, a company spokesman said.

It hopes to export from a factory in India, due to open in December. The plant is a joint venture with Brooke Bond and Company, a British subsidiary of the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate Unilever.

The plant will be exporting four million packets, or one-tenth of its output, to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union by 1992, the spokesman said.

The Samyang Food Company of South Korea said in February that it hoped to begin exporting noodles to the Soviet Union in April. It will ship two container loads worth \$20,000 to test the market, a company spokesman said.

Japan started exporting instant noodles in 1960, just two years after they were invented by Momofuku Ando, Nissin's founder.

Ando came up with the idea of a cheap, nutritious and convenient food suited to the Japanese palate and made easily from the ample stocks of wheat given to Japan by the US government after the end of World War Two.

"At the time, people were starving and queuing for noodles at street stalls," said Tastyuka Ukon, a Nissin spokesman.

Imported wheat still accounts for most Japanese production of the food, known here as Ramen and in Korea as Ramyon.

The idea of selling noodles in disposable foam cups — enabling diners to cook them simply by adding hot water — was introduced in Japan in 1971.

The latest innovation, also introduced by Nissin, is self-heating containers.

"We are sure instant noodles will become popular in every country," said Nissin's Ukon.

Myojo Foods, another of Japan's five major instant noodle makers, is also considering opening a factory in Eastern Europe.

Company to sign several important concession pacts  
IPC in major expansion drive

**THE International Petroleum Corporation (IPC),** which operates several oil and gas properties in the Middle East and the Gulf, has launched a full-blown expansionist programme aimed at lifting the company into the big league of oil companies by the end of this decade.

The Canadian corporation, which has its technical headquarters in Dubai, is planning to drill four world class exploration wells and sign several important concession agreements during the coming year.

Themoves werespelt out in the corporation's annual report by its chairman and president, Adolf H. Lundin.

During 1989, IPC, which holds a controlling interest in an onshore concession covering the whole of Ras Al Khaimah in the UAE, and is the operating partner for the Bukha field offshore in Oman, acquired new concessions in Malaysia, Libya, Benin and Papua New Guinea. The Pandora gas field in the Gulf of Papua is IPC's biggest accumulation of hydrocarbon reserves and the company is currently evaluating the most profitable way in which to put this very large energy resource into commercial production.

Last February, the company acquired two large blocks off shore Vietnam. It now operates oil and gas properties in 13 countries world-wide.

"The quest for additional oil and gas concessions goes on relentlessly and I confidently expect that IPC will sign several important concessions agreements in the current year," said Lundin.

"The road ahead is a marvellous one and I am sure that we will accomplish our objective, which is to make International Petroleum Corporation a major oil company during this decade," he told investors.

Last year, IPC expanded its operations throughout the Arab world, signing new exploration and production agreements and opening new offices.

Its first major regional success last year, was the declaration of commerciality for the Bukha field in Oman. IPC, as the operator, has now opened an office in Muscat from which the future development of the field is being co-ordinated.

In 1989, IPC also entered into a five-year exploration and production sharing agreement with the National Oil Corporation — the Libyan state-owned oil company.

The agreement provides IPC with the right to explore and share in oil production generated from these blocks, with a combined area of 932 square kilometres. The blocks are within the productive trend of the Sirte Basin, where some 28 billion barrels of petroleum reserves have previously been discovered.

IPC has now opened an office in Tripoli and plans, this year, to re-process some 1,850 kilometres of existing seismic data and shoot approximately 375 kilometres of new seismic data in the three blocks. The first well is planned for early 1991.



Adolf H. Lundin



Picture shows DHL Middle East regional manager Graham Davey (left) receiving the Bill Walden Excellence in Management Development award from DHL world-wide CEO Patrick Lupo.

**Global award**

**GRAHAM DAVEY,** Middle East regional manager of DHL world-wide express, has been presented with the Bill Walden Excellence in Management Development award by the company's worldwide chief executive officer Patrick Lupo.

The annual award, established in memory of DHL's former world-wide CEO Bill Walden, recognises achievements in developing the potential and skills of young managers. It is made each year to a senior manager in DHL's global network.

Graham Davey, came to the Middle East in 1985, after a posting in DHL's Singapore regional office. He was the regional sales and marketing manager and general manager of Saudi Arabia, where DHL operates in sole association with SNAS world-wide express, before his appointment as Middle East regional manager in 1988.

He has been responsible for fostering the development of a number of young managers who have since progressed to hold senior positions with DHL both in the Middle East and in the company's world-wide network.

The criteria for making the award is based on qualities believed to be essential for senior management by the late Bill Walden: to recognise business opportunities and develop them; to be a self-initiator with decisive action; to have sound analytical skills and a practical business approach; and the ability to communicate at all levels.

**Lebanon relies on Arab aid**

**KUWAIT, April 16, (Kuna):** A Lebanese financial official says Lebanon's financial status is still reasonable despite all shocks and protracted political crisis and believes that no settlement for the Lebanese dilemma unless Israel withdraws from South Lebanon.

Lebanese Finance Minister Dr Ali Al Khalil, interviewed by a Kuwaiti daily newspaper published here today, indicated that Lebanon's foreign debts currently stand at \$250 million pointing out that Lebanon relies on Arab financial aid once the Lebanese crisis resolved in order to reconstruct war-devastated economy.

He added that out of \$2 billion allocated by the 1979 Arab summit conference to back Lebanon's steadfastness before the Zionist aggression, only \$388 million were received.

Al Khalil warned that Lebanon's internal debts, currently less than \$2 billion, will reach half of the country's national reserve if the crisis goes on and said this will mean disaster for Lebanon's economy.

Turning to the Lebanese ordeal, Al Khalil said everyone and grouping in Lebanon can be politically active, including practicing opposition, but at the same time they must adhere to the regulations and recognize the legitimate regime," he said.

Gulf Bank weekly market review  
KD slightly higher against the dollar

**Kuwaiti dinar**

**BASED** on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded slightly higher against the US dollar ending the week at 293.39 fils compared with its week before last closing of 293.97 fils. The KD traded higher against the pound sterling, ending the week at 481.97 fils compared with its week before last closing of 484.02 fils.

The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 175.11 fils compared with its week before last closing of 172.84 fils. The KD was also lower against the SFR ending the week at 197.0 fils compared with its week before last closing of 195.52 fils. The KD was lower against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 252.04 fils compared with its week before last closing of 251.46 fils.

The KD was higher against the Australian dollar ending the week at 224.97 fils compared with its week before last closing at 225.03 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was higher against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 435.94 fils compared with its week before last closing of 436.81 fils. The KD traded slightly higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market rates, short term interbank offer rates, traded relatively lower compared to their previous rates. One month and 3 months rates traded around 8.62 per cent-8.93 per cent range compared to 8.81 per cent-8.93 per cent range the week before last. On the other hand, both 6-month and 12-month rates traded slightly lower at 8.81 per cent-9.06 per cent range compared to 9.00 per cent-9.06 per cent range the week before last.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced two new separate T-Bills issues, the first is 3-month T-Bill issue No. (110) of KD50 million, with effective and maturity dates of April 18, and June 18 1990, respectively. The second issue is 6-months T-Bill issue No. (111), of KD25 million with effective and maturity dates of April 18 and October 17, 1990 respectively.

**World stock markets**

Wall Street stock prices traded mixed earlier in the week on weak bond prices and prospects of disappointing first quarter earnings reports. However, the market moved higher at the end of the week as gains in some of Wall Street's best known stocks and an extended rally within the technology group boosted US share prices sharply. The Dow-Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2722 and closed higher at 2752, recording a gain of 35 points over the previous week's closing of 2717.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange moved lower last week on weakness in sterling, UK gilts, and a string of poor dividend and profits announcements from the UK building and retail sectors. However, prices ended mixed, helped by a gain on Wall Street. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2227 and closed lower at 2222, but recorded a gain of one point over the previous week's closing at 2221.

Stock prices on the Tokyo Stock Market rose earlier in the week on a stronger yen after a G-7 meeting agreed to prop up the currency. However, prices fell later on sell programmes, the yen's failure to strengthen, index-linked selling and positions adjustments. The 225-share Nikkei index opened the week at 30,397 and closed lower at 29,213 recording a loss of 65 points over the previous week's closing at 29,278.

**US dollar**

The dollar traded mixed over most part of the week as traders had no clear signs on the direction of the dollar, due to lack of fresh data as well as due to fears of central banks' interventions which kept a lid on the dollar's major moves.

US wholesale inflation as measured by the producer price index fell 0.2 per cent in March after being unchanged in February. The decline, the first in seven months, was led by decreases in food and energy prices.

The Fed is expected to maintain its steady monetary policy in the wake of producer price index figures. The numbers reinforce the Fed's current position of staying on hold. No change in Fed policy is anticipated for at least several months.

A surprise drop in March, US retail sales figures on the surface a weak consumer, but part of the decline may be simply a correction to the big gain earlier this year. March retail sales fell 0.6 per cent following a 0.3 per cent decline in February. Unusual warm weather fuelled healthy growth in construction, employment and spending in January. For instance, retail sales jumped 2.8 per cent that month.

US business inventories fell 0.4 per cent in February after a revised 0.3 per cent in January, while business sales rose 1.3 per cent in February after rising a revised 0.4 per cent in January.

The dollar is likely to come under mid pressure this week as a batch of US economic indicators expected to underline the slowing US economy. The market will closely watch US industrial production, capacity utilisation, housing starts, and trade figures to seek the strength of the US economy and inflationary pressures.

**Pound sterling**

The pound sterling opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6345/55 and closed higher at \$1.6370/80, compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6420/30.

The latest batch of economic statistics showed UK inflationary pressures remain strong with more gloom in store. The UK retail price index (RPI), showed an annualized rise of 8.1 per cent in March, up from 7.5 per cent in February, above market forecasts of an 8.0 per cent rise. The annual RPI is now set to push sharply above 9 per cent in April. The Poll tax, higher excise duties, weaker sterling and public utility price rises will fuel the RPI rise, which may touch 7.5 per cent or higher. The new data was disappointing, and may indicate that Britain's growth is slowing.

The UK currency is forecast to stay fairly steady in the near term due to its high yield.

**Japanese yen**

The yen opened the week against the US\$ at 158.00/10 yen and closed the week lower at 158.60/70 yen, compared to its week before last closing at 157.73/83 yen.

The yen remained under pressure last week. Market doubts over the strength of Group of Seven political co-ordination is seen weighing on the ailing yen. This negative sentiment was reinforced after a local newspaper reported that joint intervention in Europe was on behalf of the Bank of Japan.

Domestic wholesale prices rose 0.1 per cent in March, unchanged from February's increase, while the overall wholesale price index (WPI) rose 0.7, from a 0.1 gain in February. The marginal rise in March domestic prices confirm that inflation is not picking up. The WPI in the year ended March 31, 1990 rose 3.5 per cent and was the highest in 5 years. However, the jump in prices was mainly attributed to the introduction of a 3 per cent consumption tax and the weaker yen.

The yen would likely remain under pressure as long as markets remained edgy about any inflation from planned German monetary union. The yen is expected to weaken further next week. With the current belief that recent concerted central bank actions were taken on behalf of the BOJ, the yen's downward trend looks intact.

**Deutsche mark**

The mark opened the week against the US\$ at 1.6925/35 marks and closed the week higher at 1.6720/30 marks compared with its week before last closing at 1.6950/80 marks.

The mark has been supported by remarks by West German Economics Minister Haussmann that he does not see any inflationary risks from German monetary union talks scheduled to begin this week. It is a question of whether the exchange rate of East and West German marks will be "one or two for one." With W. German interest rates perceived to be on a firming trend, the mark is set to benefit.

Japanese firms add flexibility to the mass assembly line

**ZAMA, Japan, April 16, (AP):** Thirty-five robot arms cuddle the main body parts of a Nissan Sentra into virtually perfect alignment, as 16 others weld them together at 62 spots.

Then, 45 seconds later, as the four-door sedan body moves on, a computer automatically readjusts the bank of robots to assemble the next car on the line, a hatchback model, followed by a station wagon.

Down the line, each body will be painted a different colour and receive different parts, all determined by computer command.

In industries ranging from automobiles to bicycles, Japanese companies like Nissan are developing ways of increasing the flexibility of production lines, both in the mix of models and options they can handle, and in the ease of changeover to new designs.

It's far cry from Henry Ford's offer of "any colour you want as long as it's black" in selling the world's first mass-produced car, the model T.

Through extensive computerisation of the production line, Japanese companies have begun focussing on "mini-production," offering specialised, low-volume models and even made-to-order customised versions.

Toyota makes Supra, Lexus and Soarer models on the same line at its Tahara plant, while Honda produces Accords and Integras on a single line at Suzuka.

Each car at the Tahara factory carries a specially programmed identification disk that emits radio signals picked up by receivers at each work station. The signals tell a robot or worker what kind of battery, shock absorber or stereo or stereo system the car should receive.

Nissan says its new "intelligent body assembly system" in use at Zama is the first in the world to use computer-programmable robots instead of fixed jigs in aligning the main body parts, including floor, roof and side panels.

It allows one assembly line to handle up to four different models and eight body types at once.

Company officials say the system also greatly reduces the time and cost of model changeovers.

Normally, changeovers require lengthy and expensive retooling of jigs and production machines, resulting in a long "down time" for the production line.

But the use of programmable robots means that many of the changes can be made by just modifying the computer programme — a process which can be combined with the design of the car itself, now done chiefly by computer.

"With this systems, we can take the computer programme to another plant and begin production in three months," Nissan's Kazutake Kobatake said. "Before, it took 10-11 months to transfer production."

The system will reduce new model retooling costs by about 50 per cent, Kobatake said.

With the increasing internationalisation of the auto industry, the use of computerised production technology allows companies to send a computer programme, rather than bulky new jigs and equipment, to an overseas plant to quickly shift production of new or popular models.

It also helps makers avoid excess stocks of unsold products by tailoring each day's production mix to actual demand.

Such production flexibility allows Nissan to produce several low-volume speciality models for the Japanese market, the BE-1, Pao and S-cargo, each with production in the tens of thousands.

The No. 2 assembly line at its Zama plant is one of the most highly automated in Japan, with 97 per cent of the 3,000-4,000 welds per car done by robots, general manager Tsuneyuki Hane said.

Nissan officials say the system already operating in their Zama and Tochigi plants will be introduced to two other Japanese plants — and their US factory in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Analysts say the United States is behind in flexible assembly line technology and that large US companies have displayed less interest in specialised low-volume production.

In autos and electronics, Japanese makers routinely offer more models in Japan than in the United States, and yet US distributors complain of having to handle too many models. Japanese company officials say.

Other Japanese industries are also increasing the flexibility of their production lines.

**STG/US\$**

DATE	STG/US\$
9	1.65
10	1.65
11	1.65
12	1.65
13	1.65

**US\$/DM**

DATE	US\$/DM
9	1.66
10	1.66
11	1.66
12	1.66
13	1.66

**US\$/J.YEN**

DATE	US\$/J.YEN
9	158.0
10	158.0
11	158.0
12	158.0
13	158.0

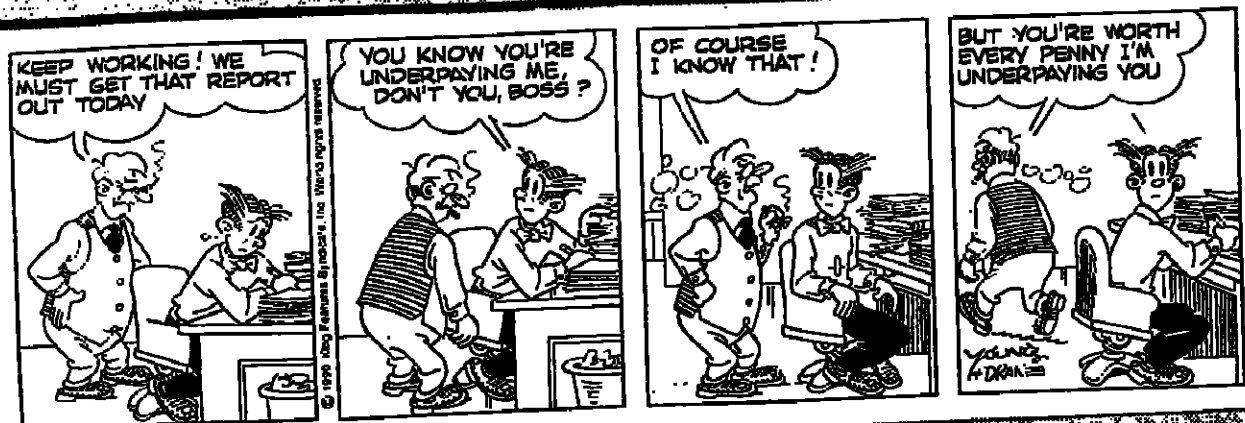


### Florindo Zannini truffle hunter

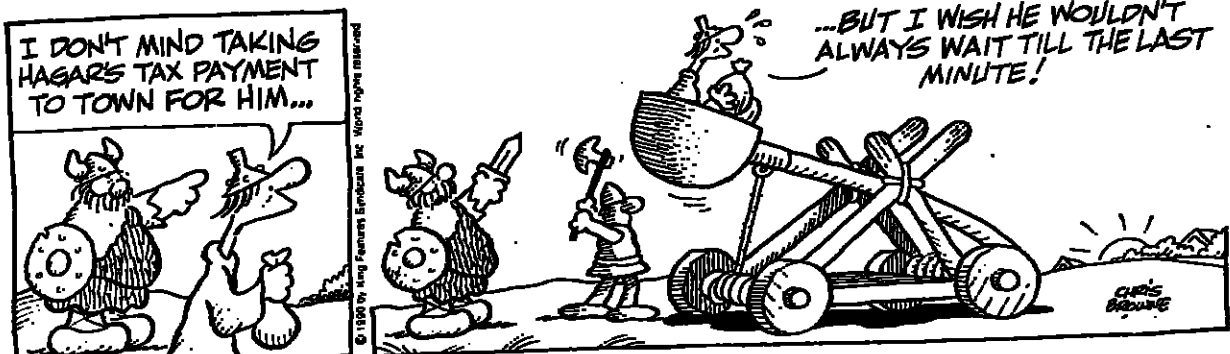


# BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



# HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



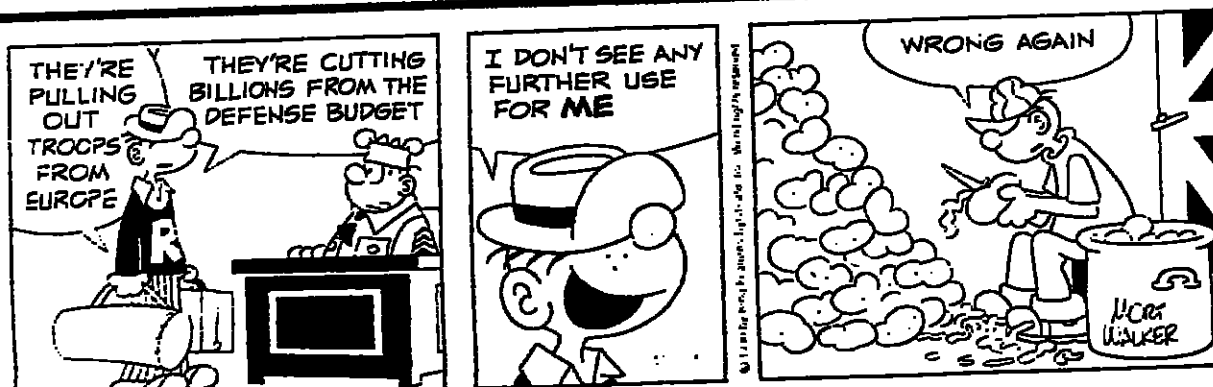
# AGATHA CRUM

By Bill Ward



# BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



# THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



# ANDY CAPP

By Andy Capp



# B.C.

By Johnny Hart

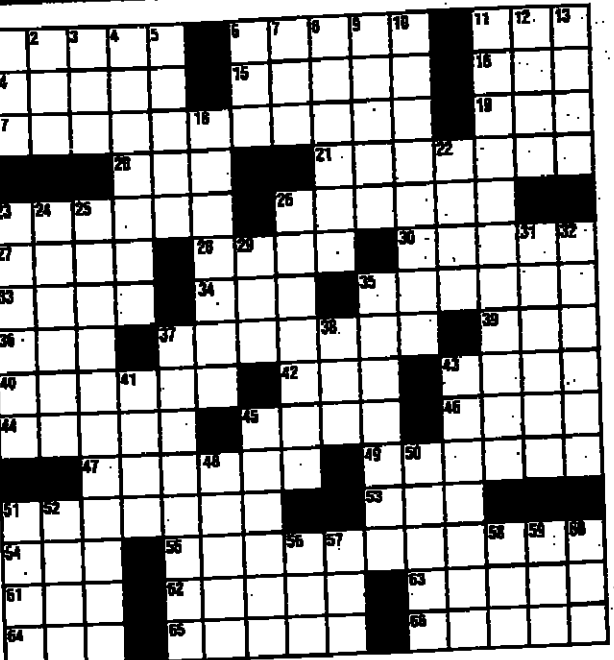


# HE-MAN

By G. Forster & G. Forster



# TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Searches thoroughly
- 6 Valuable violin, for short
- 11 Decay
- 14 Fanon
- 15 Hindu religious teacher
- 16 Pindar poem
- 17 Welsh poet
- 19 Garden plot
- 20 Kanga's kid
- 21 Ni-
- 23 William Sydney Porter
- 25 French Impressionist
- 27 Don Juan
- 28 Conduct
- 30 Soil-building plant
- 33 Impatient
- 34 Op or pop
- 35 Bats' milieu
- 36 Lemon additive
- 37 Shoe for "Magic"
- 39 Female ruff
- 40 Like some fenders
- 42 Little one
- 43 Promptly
- 44 Scornful look
- 45 Adriatic seaport
- 46 Majorca or Minorca
- 47 Off-beat
- 49 Smetung mixtures
- 51 State of being first
- 53 Old French coin
- 54 Fabrication
- 55 "Far From the Madding Crowd" author
- 61 Before over or out
- 62 Burst forth
- 63 Musical study

## DOWN

- 1 Bay State cape
- 2 Direct ending
- 3 "La Fille - gardée"
- 4 Flattery, Irish style
- 5 Gentleman from Oviedo
- 6 Quiet
- 7 Pair
- 8 Swindled, British style
- 9 At full speed
- 10 Farret out
- 11 Pulitzer Prize post: 1943
- 12 Baltic feeder
- 13 Williams et al.
- 18 Herbert's "Babes in -"
- 22 City or canal of Germany
- 23 Mountain nymphs
- 24 Coarse woolen cloth
- 25 "Little Boy Blue" author
- 26 Knocking sound
- 29 Before
- 31 Kind of highly seasoned fare
- 32 Laughing animals
- 35 Speedily, of old
- 37 Forms sawlike teeth
- 38 Divided country: Abbr.
- 41 Yoked oxen
- 43 Locate
- 45 Purchase a major share of
- 48 Earthy color
- 50 Throbbled
- 51 Scheme
- 52 Veil
- 56 Public admin. deg.
- 57 Enjoyed a repast
- 58 Polish insecticide
- 59 Banned insecticide: Abbr.
- 60 Affirmative

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CLUB PAIS BIRISH  
ROIVE ALOIE OUPHE  
ARIEA SLUE NEPAL  
BEAT THE DRUM ALP  
SHAY NOBLES  
SLATE SPIRIT  
WISHED EAT ARCS  
ANTIE IMAGE TEAL  
NEAR NOR DOMINO  
AREOLA GENET  
PEPPER NARD  
ALL WORLD BEATER  
LIANA EERY DATA  
MOTOR ADIES DRAM  
STAND PAIS YIELD

# GOREN BRIDGE

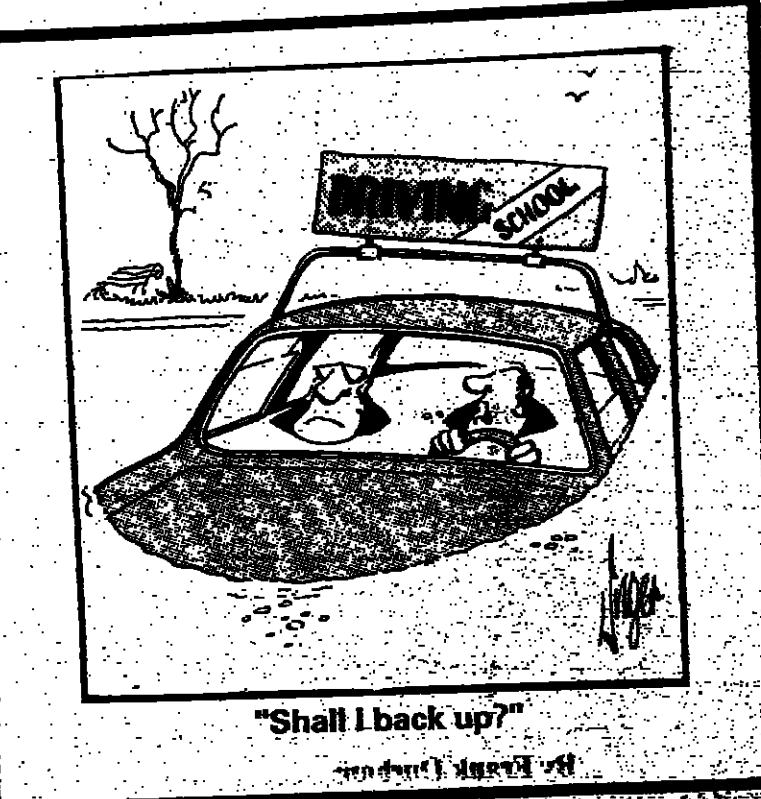
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
SPOT THE KEY CARD

Both vulnerable. North deals.  
NORTH  
♠ K Q  
♥ J 8 4  
♦ A K Q 10  
♣ Q 7 4  
WEST  
♠ 8 6 5 4 3  
♥ A K 5 3  
♦ J 9 7 2  
♣ 3  
EAST  
♠ A J 10 9  
♥ 2  
♦ 8 5 4  
♣ 10 8 6 5 2  
SOUTH  
♠ 7 2  
♥ Q 10 7 6 5  
♦ 6 3  
♣ A K J 9

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 3 Pass  
4 Pass 4 Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠  
Before reading on, study the diagram carefully. Then decide which of East's cards is destined to play a crucial role in defeating South's heart game.  
North-South were using a 15-17 point range for their one no trump opening bids, so North's four diamonds was a cue-bid showing a maximum opening and a good heart fit. However, South was not interested in anything more than game.  
West's lead of the three of clubs

looked suspiciously like a singleton. The instinctive reaction by most declarers would have been to win the club in hand and lead a trump at trick two, but that would have led to defeat. Sooner or later, West would get to East with a spade for a club return, and West's ruff would defeat the contract by a trick.  
In an effort to avert fate's decree, declarer won the club opening and discarded dummy's three top diamonds, discarding a spade from hand. When the ten of diamonds was led off dummy, East signalled emphatically with the jack of spades and declarer parted with his remaining spade. West scored his jack of diamonds, but two trump tricks were all the defenders could collect thereafter, since West's link to partner had been severed.  
East was sleeping on the job. Instead of signaling an entry, the defender should have ruffed with his "useless" two of hearts. If he had, declarer would have no way to avoid defeat. Since he could not afford to let East gain the lead, declarer would have to overruff and hope for a fortunate trump position, or finding West with the ace of spades. Since neither situation existed, West was bound to get a club ruff for down one.



# YOUR STARS

### Aries

March 21 - April 20

It will cost you an effort to keep your mind on what you are doing, but it will be worth the effort. You should not give way to illogical doubts. However, it would be wrong to do something you doubt is right. Be friendly.

### Cancer

June 21 - July 20

You are inclined to tire rather easily and should make sure you are getting all the sleep you need. Try not to do anything that would not be popular with your friends but do not do things just in order to be popular.

### Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You will not be altogether satisfied with the way things are going. However, you should think how much worse matters could well have turned out to be. Do not exercise to the point where you exhaust yourself. Be benevolent.

### Capricorn

Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Do not try to use force where charm and persuasion has failed to get results. Keep in touch with the news but do not spend too long a time reading papers. Do not just hope you will succeed, strive to do so. Be observant.

### Taurus

April 21 - May 20

You will be rather exasperated by the way something you are learning is proving to be difficult. However, if you practise and persevere you will master the techniques in due course. Remember that short-cuts are not the same as cutting corners. Be moderate.

### Leo

July 21 - Aug. 21

Avoid drinking too much, whether it is coffee or alcohol. You will be able to make a few changes for the better. However, do avoid change just for the sake of something different. Be constructive.

### Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

Since you do not like to be kept waiting make sure you do not keep others waiting. A bill should be paid promptly. Nothing is to be gained by postponing its payment. If you do not take care you will make a mistake which will be hard to correct. Be helpful.

### Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

Do not forget to do something you have promised to undertake. There will be lots of distractions and you must do all you can to resist them. Make sure you treat your children the age they are. Be consistent.

### Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You will be inclined to be rather untidy and should do all you can to counteract the tendency. You should try to make a little more gain in yourself. Make sure you get enough exercise particularly if you lead a sedentary life. Be firm.

### Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You will tend to eat and drink more than is good for you - don't. You should try to make sure you learn the lessons of experience. You are rather too inclined to become set in your ways. Be generous.

### Sagittarius

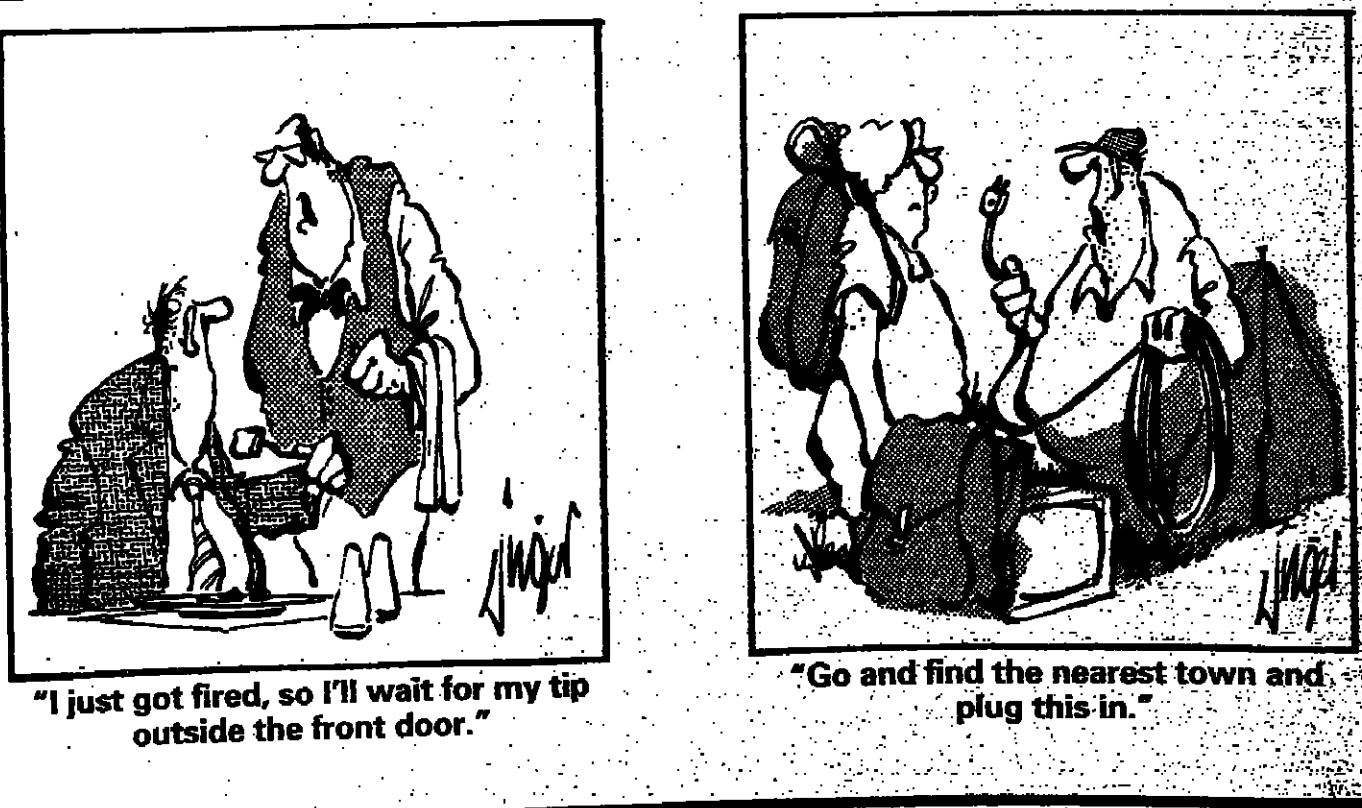
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

If you do not deal with it right away a relatively small problem will become extremely severe. Do your best to please your partner and to avoid annoying him. You will be able to do something you have been postponing and should do so. Be more patient.

### Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You should try a little harder to curb your expenditures, but do not cut down on essential repairs. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 28. You must accept that you cannot have your way in all things. Avoid a too rich diet. Be sincere.





## Dr Jack's Calcutta mission

## Caring for the poorest of the poor

By Pratik Kanjilal

CALCUTTA. (WNL) Doctor Jack. That's how he is known to the poor of Calcutta. They also refer to him as god. But Dr Jack Preger, 59, smilingly disowns his godhood. "This (West Bengal) is a Marxist state," he says, tongue firmly in cheek. "And these people probably can't find anyone else to worship."

But Jack, as he likes to be called, has certainly made himself worthy of praise. His list of patients runs to 18,000 and whole families may be included under a single name, pushing the number up to a possible 60,000. Most are beggars, tramps, landless peasants or pavement dwellers, the poorest of the poor. Preger gives them free treatment, food and clothing and often pays their travel expenses to the clinic and even their rent. For the past 15 years, in this city of Mother Teresa, he has been the patron saint of the denied and the dispossessed. His two roadside clinics are an alternative to the Nobel laureate's homes for the dying destitute.

But unlike Mother Teresa, he is little known outside Calcutta, or even in Calcutta. His own work, as he puts it, is only a tiny drop in this vast city's ocean of poverty and, until recently, his main clinic functioned from the pavement on Middleton Row, a quiet, unfrequented street in downtown Calcutta. But word spread quickly among the desperately poor. Patients come to him from as far away as the Sunderbans, a dense, tiger-infested forest located where the Hooghly River empties into the Bay of Bengal. "Some of them take two days to reach Calcutta from there," said Preger, "even if it is a distance of only 50 miles, because slow country boats on the rivers crisscrossing the forest are the

only modes of transport."

The majority of Preger's assistants are young Westerners, most of them on three or six-month visas. The permanent staff includes two Indian doctors, one nurse and 16 women who sew clothing for the patients. But without the 15-odd volunteers the clinics would never have survived, says Preger. Some of them are trained nurses, like Adrianna Timmermans from Holland, while others have no medical experience at all. Lars Thomasson, a Swede, is a graphic printer who has now become adept at applying and changing surgical dressings, while Marcia Wallace, an untrained volunteer from England, has become the organization's bookkeeper.

The volunteers learn of Preger's clinics often by chance. Timmermans, for instance, was visiting Calcutta as a tourist when she met Preger. "I wasn't planning to start working anywhere," she said. "But they needed nurses very much. So I agreed to stay for a week or two. Now I have been here for over two months." There are others who first came to Calcutta to work for Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity but moved to Middleton Row because "it's more meaningful here." And there are still others who learned of Preger's clinics from the media. Britain's Channel 4 television made a documentary on the doctor's work some time ago, "and that gave us a lot of publicity," Preger noted.

"We get a number of volunteers who will do anything," he added, "and we get some very dramatic cases: infected wounds, road traffic accidents, leprosy cases, TB patients. The volunteers do excellent dressing... in fact, the School of Tropical

Medicine (a well-known Calcutta teaching hospital) sometimes sends leprosy patients to us because we do better dressing."

Naren Pramanik, 45, whose disfiguring skin disease makes him look almost 80, says of Preger, "This man only gives. The hospitals only take." Mujit Ali, 32, fell from a tree eight years ago and was paralyzed from the waist down. He had to drag himself along the ground until Preger got him an orthopedic tricycle. "This doctor can cure everything except sudden death," Ali says. Another patient chimes in: "Doctor Jack supports that which society finds insupportable."

Medicine came late to Preger. In the 1950s, he was at Oxford University studying philosophy and politics and specializing in economics. "I had a fairly good teacher in the Institute of Agricultural Economics and I got interested in the economics of underdeveloped regions," he recalled. "I wanted a research job in West Africa but my degree was not good enough."

So he went back to the land, and farming, a life he knew from his childhood in Wales. He became deeply affected by the New Testament of the Bible, and in 1966, at the ripe age of 35, he joined the Catholic Church. In the same year he enrolled in the medical school in Dublin. "The very point of studying medicine was to be able to do social work," he explained.

Preger first used his medical skills during his internship. Next to the hospital the Legion of Mary operated a shelter for the homeless and destitute. Preger was impressed by the group and he started working for the home in his spare time. Then the fledgling doctor heard a radio report about Concern, an organization that urgently needed doctors in Bangladesh. So, on Christmas Eve 1972 he landed in Dhaka. "I didn't really know where I was going or what I was doing. I never had the time to read the papers when I was an intern, so I didn't even know where Bangladesh was," he admits. "I actually rang up the Indian High

Commission in London to ask where Dhaka was, and they told me it was in a completely different country."

Memories of his first day there in a refugee camp remain vivid: "I'll never forget it, it was so horrible. They (refugees) were living in total degradation.... There was no proper ventilation and the temperature was incredible. Hundreds and hundreds of people, each family with its little bit of floor space. In every passage, every corridor, refugees everywhere."

"Then I went to the Geneva Camp, run very, very badly by the Swiss Red Cross. There was no sanitation. You couldn't walk around in sandals; mud and sewage everywhere. Children would get a glass of milk, and that was that.... some occasional food, which they didn't get every day."

Everyone in rags... terrible scabies, TB, right through the camps. Within a few months there was a smallpox epidemic. Preger said that he had trouble sleeping for a long time afterwards. He continued, "I used to doze myself, but I had terrible nightmares. There were three other people from Ireland with me. That (first) night they couldn't eat at all. Two of them were married couples. But the third, an engineer setting up tube wells in the camps, got more and more depressed and withdrawn. He took to locking himself in. Eventually they had to break down the door and send him home. Then there was another who worked in a home for vagrants. He got very depressed, started drinking and one day he jumped into the hotel swimming pool fully clothed... just lay on the bottom, wouldn't come up. They had to fish him out. He was all right but had to be sent home."

In 1974 Preger became homesick. He went back to Ireland, only to return very soon. Bangladesh was ravaged by floods and famine that year. He joined a Dutch organization for children and also started a 90-bed clinic for destitutes. He continued to work in Bangladesh until 1979, when the govern-

ment, with no official explanation, ordered him to leave the country after he blew the whistle on a scam involving high officials.

He was put on a plane for Singapore but disembarked at Bangkok and flew to Calcutta. Why Calcutta? "Because I knew the language (Bengali is spoken in Bangladesh and West Bengal) and it's close to Bangladesh where I hoped to return. No, I didn't think then that this city stood in special need of my help." In August 1979 he offered his services to Calcutta's Missionary Brothers of Charity, working with homeless children and families. But he soon left because he felt that their medical standards were too low. "They kept TB and non-TB patients together, without even a door to separate them."

He is critical of Mother Teresa for the same reason. "Some of her work is excellent," he said. "For example, she works wonders with leprosy patients at Titagarh (near Calcutta). But at places which are partly hospices for the dying, she fails to maintain adequate standards. Her's isn't a medical order."

But isn't her aim to let them die in peace? "It isn't as simple as that," Preger said. "Actually, 50 per cent of those admitted at Kalighat (a facility for the dying in south Calcutta) do survive, so with proper medical care many more would. I talked to her about this.... On the general issue of medical care she said that hers wasn't a nursing order."

Unhappy with established organizations that aim at helping the poor, Preger decided to strike out on his own. Unfortunately he has found it difficult to obtain a resident permit from the government which has sought numerous times to expel him. For now the courts are handling his case, which may give him years to work in peace.

Legal constraints have not cramped Doctor Jack's style. He now runs two clinics, the one at Middleton Row and another on the banks of the Hooghly. He has also started a school in a nearby red-light district.



Dr Jack Preger, providing free medical treatment

## Wholesome Heidi is a fallen angel

OUT of 7,000 girls who wanted to play the lead in the classic children's story, the movie-makers chose 14-year-old Juliette Cator. The star of the squeaky clean new film, *Courage Mountain*, once shocked the world as the movie angel who tempted Christ on the cross

By Frank Durham

MOVIEMAKERS have always picked a little angel to play the part of sweet, wholesome Heidi in the classic children's tale. This time they have chosen an angel who was recently causing an uproar by tempting Christ on the cross.

For, out of 7,000 hopefuls, the makers of the new movie *Courage Mountain*, settled on 14-year-old British actress Juliette Cator. And it was young Juliette who played that sinful angel in the controversial *Last Temptation of Christ*.

The casting men have come a long way since Alpine-fresh orphan Heidi was played by mop-headed Shirley Temple back in 1937. In the new film, Heidi even falls in love.

And she has a romance with no less a hunk than a Brat-packer. He is Charlie Sheen, whose previous films include *Platoon*, *Wall Street* and *Young Guns*.

He has swapped his jungle fatigues for a fancy World War One uniform for the role of Heidi's clean-cut young friend Peter. And the former mean, movie gun-slinger has amazingly turned into Mr Nice Guy.

He dashes to the rescue of Heidi and her friends when they are sent to a rat-infested orphanage in Italy after the war breaks out. Peter intrepidly leads the young girls through war-torn Europe and the perilous Alps.

The tale is a continuation of the original Heidi story, taking up where the other film versions left off.

Juliette, from Berkshire, says: "Like so many girls, and certainly like the others in the film, I grew up on Heidi. It's a gorgeous story and I feel like I am becoming a part of Heidi history."

And the film's executive producer, Joel Douglas — son of Kirk Douglas — explains: "Juliette has a phenomenal acting ability. But what gave her the big advantage over all the others was her wonderful laugh."

"The basic appeal of the Heidi character was clear. And I thought it would be interesting to take that character and find a new story for her, a rites of passage story, an adventure perhaps — a romance even. I'm happy to say that *Courage Mountain* combines all of these elements."

Joel's brother, Michael, also helped to make *Courage Mountain*. Michael offered the role of Peter to Charlie Sheen, when they were working together on *Wall Street*.

Charlie says: "My character, Peter, is a regular hero. He is almost an elder statesman to the young characters in the film, someone they can look up to and respect. I feel as if it's been a long time since I played a character like that."

"I liked the idea of taking part in a film based on a children's classic. When I talked to people about it, I discovered that everybody from my sister, to my mother, to my grandmother was absolutely in love with the Heidi story."

Charlie claims he is still coming to terms with stardom and says he is just beginning to enjoy his success.

He confesses: "After *Platoon*, the days when I'd been struggling to make a name for myself and get some decent parts became the good old days, the days when it was fun."

"In many ways, I know I should have been prepared for what stardom means. But it's one thing to see your brother and your father going through it, and another to have it happen to you personally."

To me, it felt like a slap in the face, like being punched real hard."

And, if Heidi is her usual success at the box-office, Charlie can look forward to yet another thumping.

Young British actress Juliette Cator stars as Heidi in the new film, *Courage Mountain*Juliette Cator and Charlie Sheen in a scene from the new film, *Courage Mountain*

Sugar-and-Spice nice Shirley Temple, who was the first Heidi

## Virus link to cervical cancer

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (UPI): Women infected by a common sexually transmitted virus have an increased risk of developing cervical cancer, but the virus alone may not cause the disease, a government researcher reported.

A survey of 2,226 women in four Latin American countries found those with two types of human papilloma virus, or HPV, were eight times more likely to develop invasive cervical cancer than others, the researcher said.

But Dr Louise Brinton of the National Cancer Institute said the link was not strong enough to indicate that the virus alone causes the disease.

Instead, investigators suspect that cervical cancer may result from some relationship between HPV and other factors, possibly including smoking, birth control pills and vitamin deficiencies, she said. Cervical cancer also may develop when HPV is present in the body with other infectious diseases such as herpes, she said.

The United States has one of the lowest rates in the world of invasive cervical cancer — cancer that has spread beyond the top tissue layer of the cervix. There are an estimated 13,500 new cases annually.

But in Latin American countries and others such as India, the rate is six times that of the United States. In those areas, cervical cancer is a "major public health problem," Brinton told an American Cancer Society seminar.

To assess HPV's role in the disease, Brinton and her colleagues collected detailed information on 759 women who had cervical cancer and 1,467 who did not in Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama.

The researchers found HPV infection in 62 per cent of the women with cancer, but they also found it in 32 per cent of those without cancer.

Although HPV is believed to be sexually transmitted, Brinton said the study did not find a clear association between sexual promiscuity and prevalence of HPV.

In addition, although prior studies have indicated women who are sexually active at a young age and have multiple runs a higher risk of cervical cancer, Brinton's study indicated that other factors may play a role.

She found, for instance, that women who had at least 10 pregnancies had a four-fold increased risk.

Researchers recently began linking HPV to cervical cancer because they found the virus present in a high proportion of women with the disease.

But Brinton said the role of the virus remained unclear because little information existed on its prevalence in general populations.

Although the new study indicates a clear association between the virus and the disease, she said, the link is perhaps 10 times less strong than that of hepatitis B and liver cancer.

She said more research needs to be done on the association between HPV and other possible cervical cancer risk factors, including vitamin C deficiencies.

Brinton also said future studies need to determine how often HPV is present in the body before cervical cancer develops, rather than after.

She said 60 types of HPV have been identified, but only two appear to be linked to cervical cancer. Other types are associated with problems such as warts.

Although black and Hispanic women in the United States have twice the rate of invasive cervical cancer as non-Hispanic white women, Brinton said it is not known what role HPV may play in their higher risks.

## African circumcision rituals may increase Aids risk

By David Musoke

MUTOTO, Uganda (UPI): If one set out to design the most efficient way of transmitting Aids as quickly as possible to as many people as possible, it would be hard to do better than this.

Every two years in the Hilly Mbale province of eastern Uganda, in the shadow of towering Mount Elgon, the Bagisu and Sebei tribes practice their own version of the circumcision ritual.

Called *Imbalu*, the invitation ceremony has gone on for hundreds of years and is intended to celebrate life, adulthood and the continuation of the family line.

But the ritual combines in one event the two elements most likely to spread the Aids-causing human immunodeficiency virus: blood and sex.

Staged every even-numbered year, the series of festivities involving young men and women ages 16 to 20 reaches its traditional climax in August.

"The occasion is normally preceded by a week or two of merry-making: dancing and drinking through the villages by the young men due to be circumcised. They are accompanied by young girls, carrying green branches, who go from one homestead to the next, asking for gifts for those who face the knife," said Petero Gidudu, 60, an elder of Mutoto village.

Early on the day of the circumcision ceremony, all local dignitaries turn out and several cows are slaughtered, with some of the meat roasted, Gidudu said.

"The young man to be circumcised stands then at the threshold of his father's house, completely naked. The surgeon comes forward, pulls back the

foreskin of the penis and cuts off the outer skin," Gidudu said. "The candidate is not supposed to scream, blink or demonstrate the slightest sign of cowardice."

William Wanedeya, a local Member of Parliament, added: "If the candidate screams or falls down during the action, he becomes a disgrace to his family and clan."

Female circumcision, the removal of a part of the clitoris, is performed at the same time.

Dr Samuel Okware, head of the Aids control programme at the Ugandan Ministry of Health, said it is bad enough that the tribal surgeon uses the same knife on all his patients.

But "The greatest danger may not be with the circumcision ritual itself, but with the free-for-all sex which goes on indiscriminately during the ceremonies before and after circumcision," Okware said.

Uganda can ill-afford such high-risk behaviour, the health official said.

The nation has the worst incidence of acquired immune deficiency syndrome in Africa, with 10,000 reported cases since the disease was first identified there in 1982. One million people out of a total population of 17 million are estimated to be infected with the Aids virus.

The problem is compounded by government reluctance to act, Okware said, noting that politicians are wary of interfering with centuries-old traditions.

The uphill struggle is left to people like Okware, who, with the help of the World Health Organization is organizing local programmes to persuade the Bagisu and Sebei tribes to abandon the life-threatening parts of their life-celebrating ritual.



## JUNIOR TIMES

## Happy birthday



Jeslean Jose turns 3 on April 18



Erik Fox turned 15 on April 13



Kamal Jaldeen turned 6 on April 11



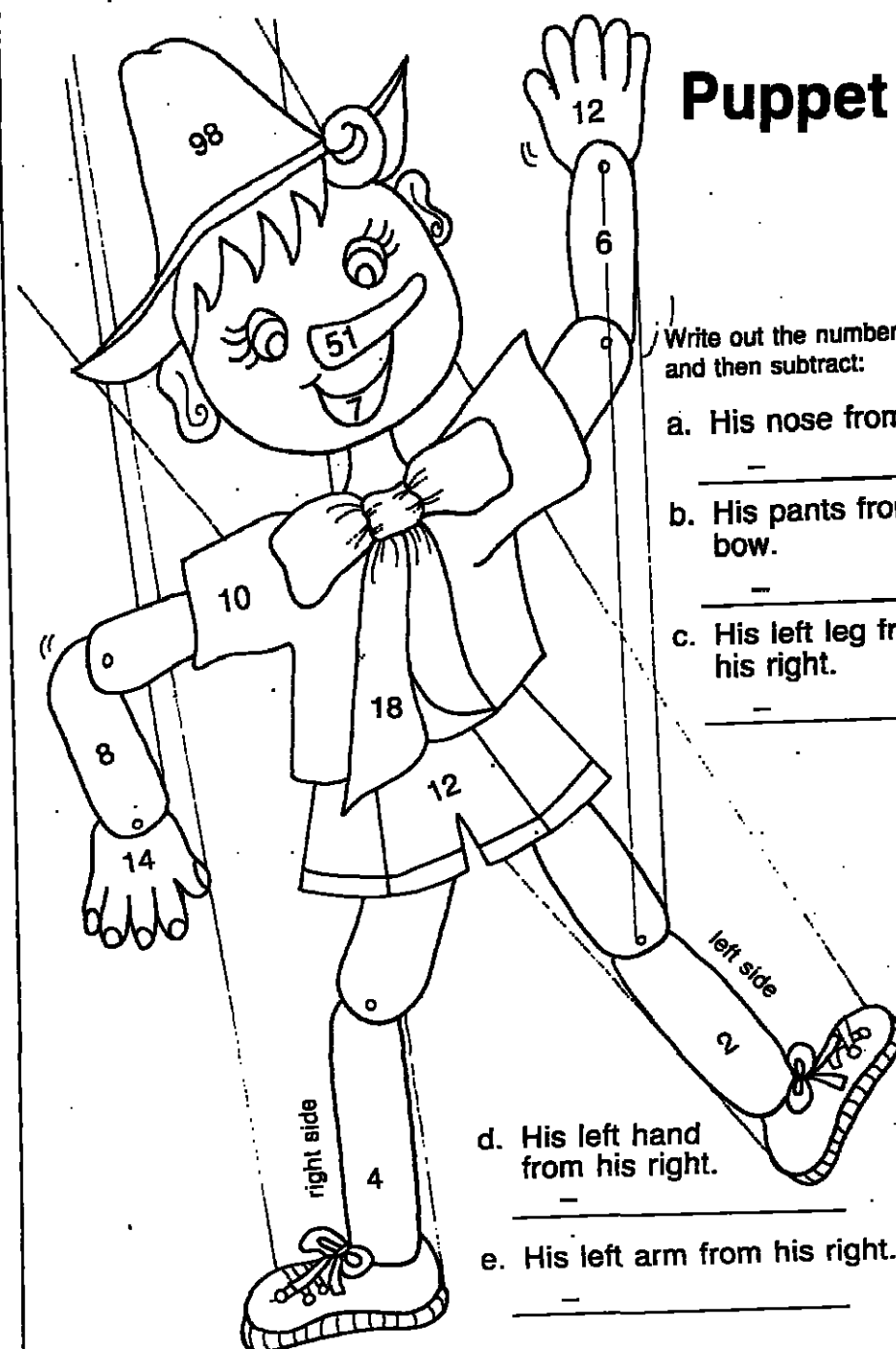
Reetu Gupta turned 5 on April 10



Udari Purnima turned 1 on April 14



Shoab Choudary turns 5 on April 22



## Puppet

Write out the number sentence and then subtract:

a. His nose from his hat.

b. His pants from his bow.

c. His left leg from his right.

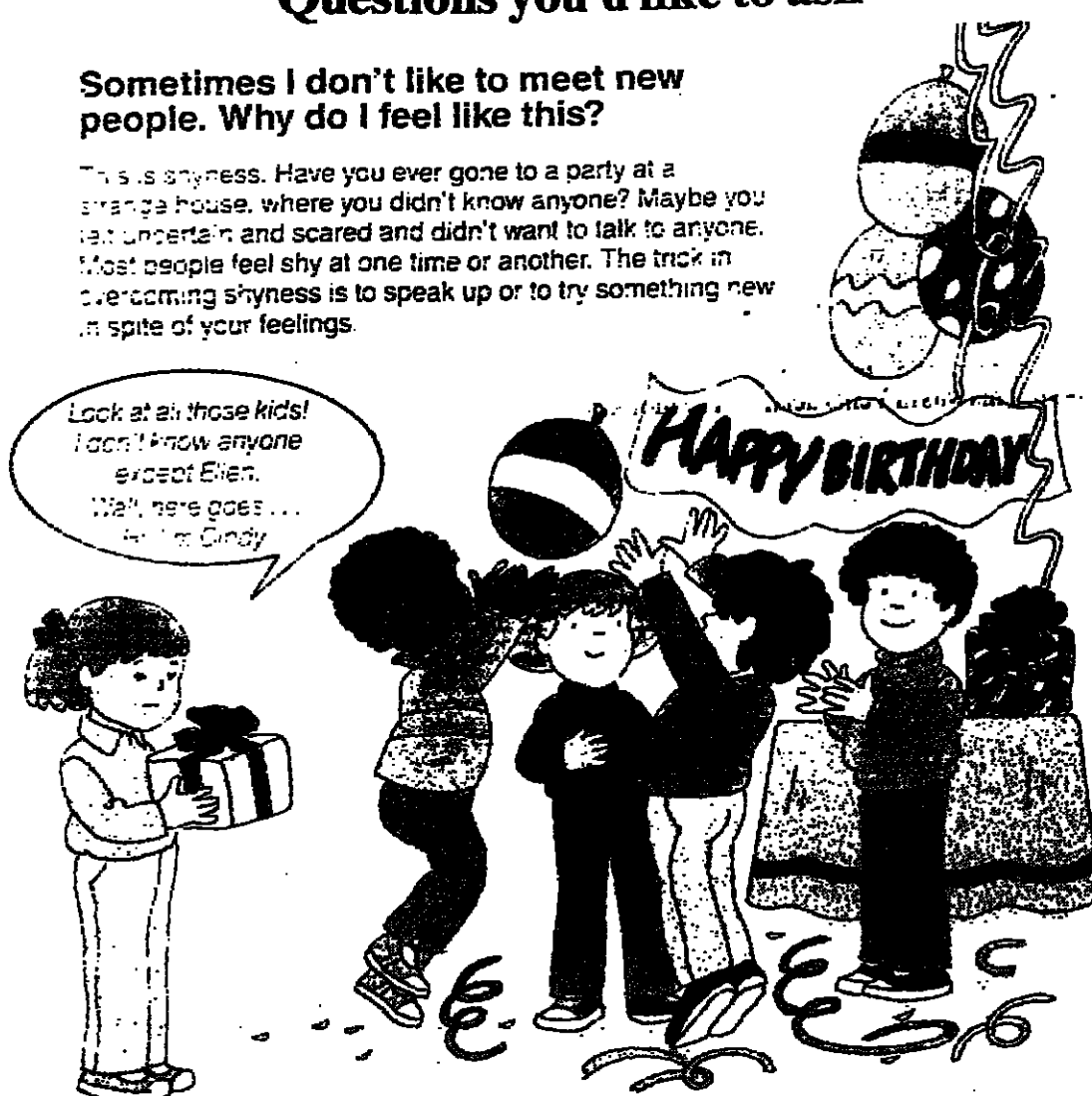
d. His left hand from his right.

e. His left arm from his right.

## Questions you'd like to ask

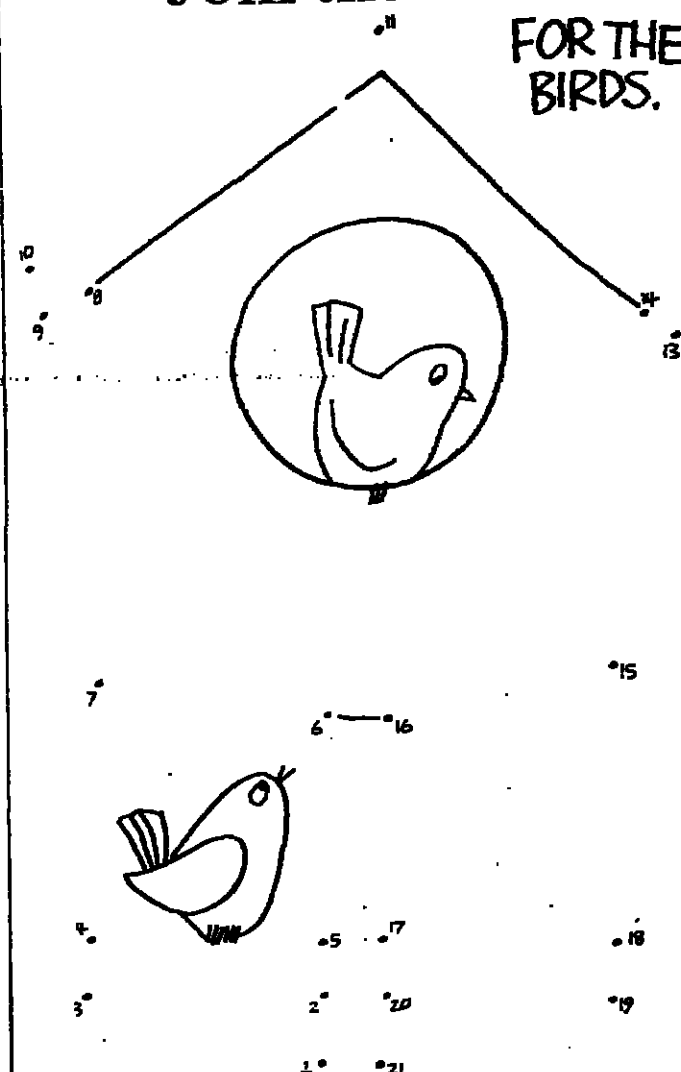
Sometimes I don't like to meet new people. Why do I feel like this?

This is shyness. Have you ever gone to a party at a strange house, where you didn't know anyone? Maybe you felt uncertain and scared and didn't want to talk to anyone. Most people feel shy at one time or another. The trick in overcoming shyness is to speak up or to try something new in spite of your feelings.



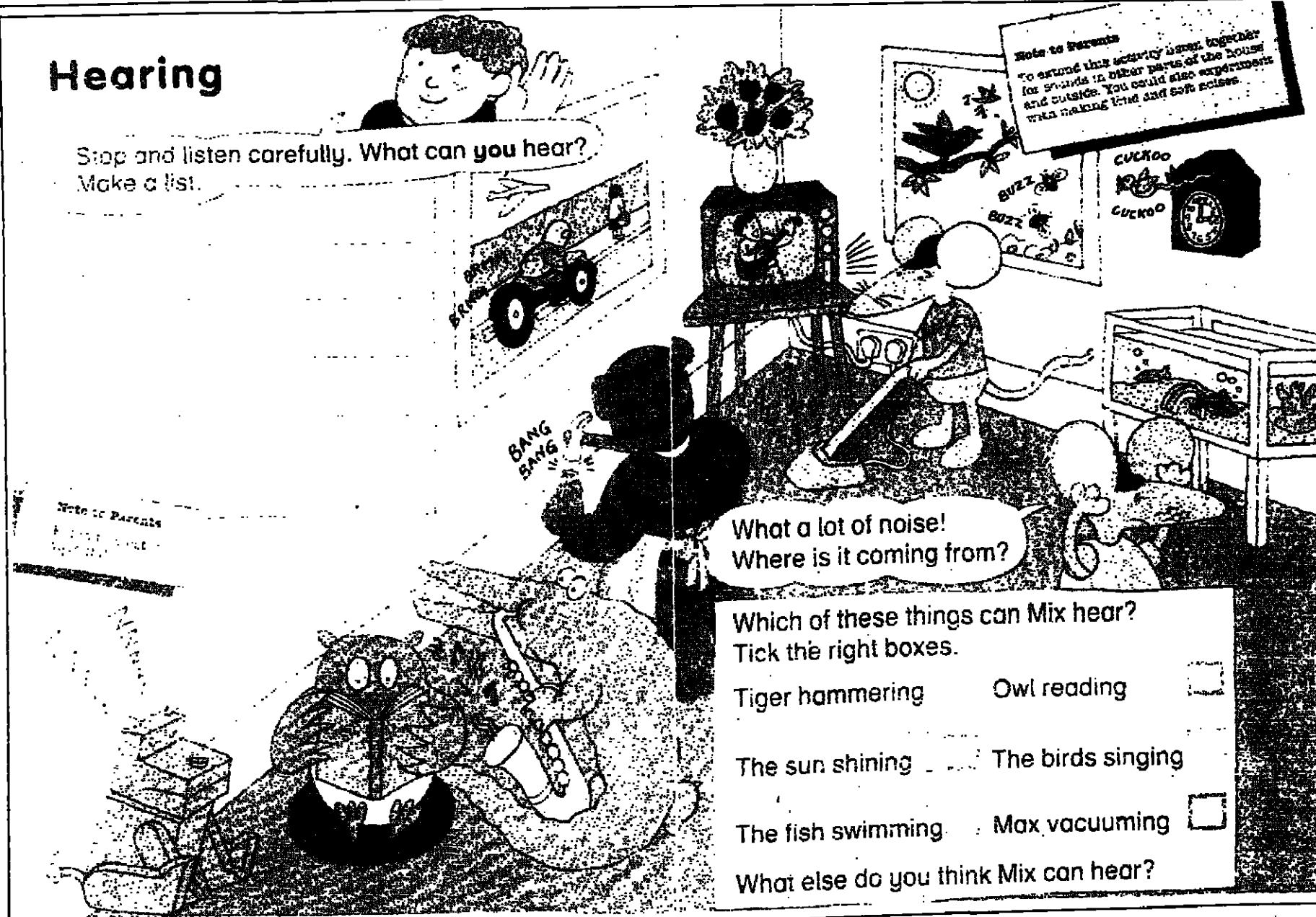
## Join the dots

FOR THE BIRDS.



## Hearing

Stop and listen carefully. What can you hear? Make a list.



Which of these things can Mix hear? Tick the right boxes.

Tiger hammering ☐ Owl reading ☐

The sun shining ☐ The birds singing ☐

The fish swimming ☐ Max vacuuming ☐

What else do you think Mix can hear?

## Kuwait English School sports week



## Junior Swimming Gala

Kuwait English School's Junior Swimming Gala was held recently. Jahra House won, ending Burgan's reign over the past four years. Ten new records were set.



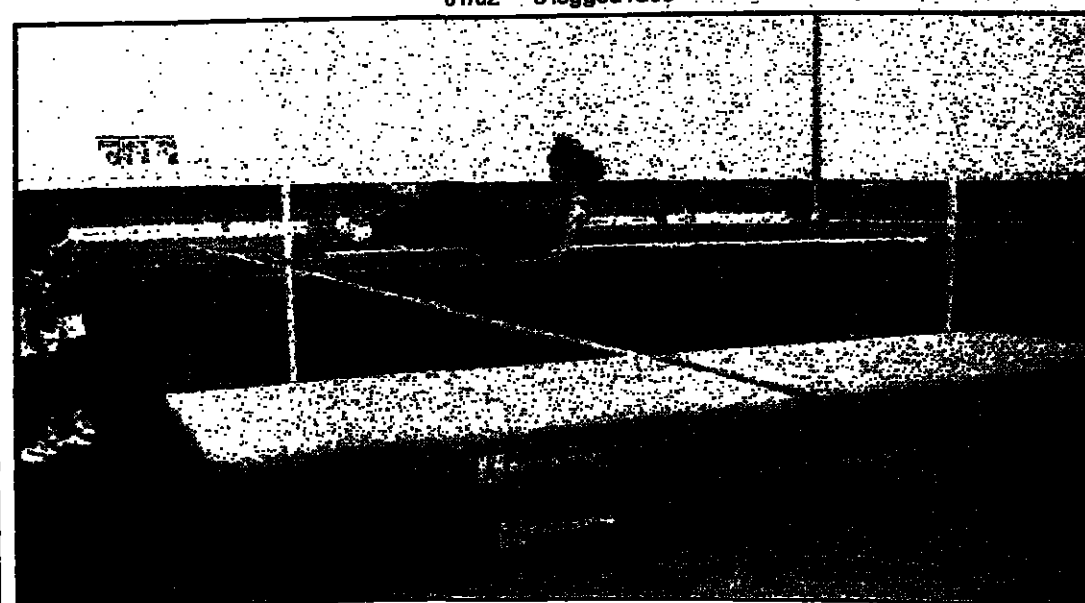
J1/J2 — Obstacle race



J1/J2 — The hoop race



J1/J2 — 3 legged race



J3/J4 — Mateus broke the high jump record



J3/J4 — Kemi broke the long jump record

## Junior Sports Days

Kuwait English School's Junior Sports Days were held recently. Both were fortunate to avoid the rain. Both the Junior 1 and 2 and the Junior 3 and 4 Sports Days were exciting with many records being broken, particularly in the high jump competition. In the end Ahmadi house proved to be worthy winners.



## Magic for beginners

## Spirits of Aqua

By Marco the Magician  
THIS is an extremely simple trick, something you could run your audience with after a hearty good dinner. But there could be a catch — and to avoid it, one would be better counselled to try it a few times before the actual performance.

What you need is speed — the speed of a nimble-fingered rogue, and you should excuse the word for, after all, magic has nothing more to it than mere deception.

This is what all the "Spirits of Aqua" is about. As I said it earlier, essentially a trick to be performed after dinner. Spirits, the magician tells his audience, are normally said to suffer from hydrophobia. But when thirsty, they (the spirits, of course) will even obey a magician. Here you take a glass with some water or some drink. Seal off the rim of the glass with some adhesive paper.

Now turn off the lights and call your spirits. And within

the insides of a few seconds, the thirsty spirit have come and finished the water in the glass, without damaging the adhesive paper cover.

This is how it happens: The magician takes a glass half-filled with water. He then takes some adhesive paper (cello-tape will do), cuts it into strips a little bigger than the diameter of the rim of the glass and sticks them over the rim in a criss-cross direction (see diagram). The object of this sealing the rim, the magician explains to the audience, is to prove that no one gets at the water (including himself) other than the spirits from the other world that he is about to summon.

Once ready, the magician switches the lights off. In total darkness, he moans and groans and produces some extra-terrestrial muffled sounds — for a very few seconds. He then switches the lights on and off again, on and off a few rapid times.

Lo, within that brief interval of darkness and lighting, the water from the glass has vanished. Though the strips across the face of its rim are intact. The magician, certainly, has not thrown the water out — as can be evidenced from the surroundings of the room no wet patches or puddles there. If double proof is necessary, pass round the empty glass among the

audience, even the strips at the rim of the glass are completely dry — also confirming possible doubts that the magician could have drunk the water.

Nope, it's only the spirits, from the other world, who had been summoned by the magician and, at his own behest, drunk the water. One may be a rationalist to the core, not believing in spirits I mean, but this simple trick will make him an agnostic.

This is how the trick works: Before you embark on the trick make sure to put a drinking straw in your pocket. As soon as the lights are switched off insert the straw through the space between the



Marco the magician  
403708, Goa, India

adhesive criss-crosses into the glass and drink out the water in a jiffy. Hide back the straw in your coat pocket before you begin switching the lights on and off for the purely putting-off-trail effect. The trick, as I said, needs a little speed, and practice. With a masterful hand, it can make a deep impression on the audience, you bet!

Wordsearch  
SPEAKING OF  
PEARLS

## BAROQUE

CROP

CULTURED

DIVERS

DROP

EARRINGS

ELEGANT

FORMATIONS

GEMS

GENUINE

GROWTH

HARD

IRREGULAR

## NECKLACE

ORB

ROSE

SEA

SELL

SHEEN

SHELLFISH

SHELLS

SMOOTH

SOLID

TRIM

VALUE

O O R H S I F L L E H S C  
F F O R M A T I O N S U U  
O O A A G T N A G E L E E  
S R L L E S D R E T S U L  
R H B U M N N U U B B N N  
E H E G S S I R R A S E E  
V A A E D D E U R G C S S  
I S S R N U U N K H O E  
D O O R D M Q I L E E L U  
R P S I O U R A L T G I L  
E E O O E R C L L L R D A  
A T T R A E S L O E S I V  
H H E E C C H T W O R G M

## Colouring time



Dear Junior readers,

Now you know how important your teeth are. They need looking after if you are going to keep them until you are old. There is a lot to remember about what is good and what is bad for them. The list below will help you.

Caring about your teeth means:

Cutting down on sugar and eating fruit sometimes instead of sweets.  
Eating crunchy foods like apples, nuts, raw carrots.  
Cleaning your teeth properly at least twice a day

and especially before going to bed using a fluoride toothpaste.

Using disclosing tablets and a fluoride mouthwash.

Going to the dentist every six months.

Not caring about your teeth means:

Eating too many foods with sugar in them like sweets, chocolate, cakes, jam, biscuits, ice cream.  
Using a worn-out old toothbrush.  
Cleaning your teeth in ten seconds flat.  
Not going to the dentist!

Marco

The Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson has only two very narrow staircases because Jefferson considered them a waste of space.

A husband in Morocco can divorce his wife simply by saying 'I divorce thee, three times.'

Ten times as many men as women are colour blind.

The first time an equal sign (=) was used was in an algebra text in 1557.

Oliver Morosco, the Broadway producer, made more than \$5,000,000 from his hit shows but when he died at 69 he had only 8 cents in his pocket.

Sir Winston Churchill's last words were! 'Oh, I am so bored with it all.'

A swarm of locusts crossed the Red Sea in 1889, which covered an area 5,180 sq. km, and must have weighed 500,000 tons.

There are over 500 characters in Tolstoy's War and Peace.

## Amazing facts

In 1861 Charles Blondin, the famous acrobat, turned a back somersault on stilts 170 feet above the ground without a safety-net.

The word 'karate' means 'empty hand'.

It was estimated that 4 million people thronged Cairo, Egypt, for the funeral of President Nasser, on October 1, 1970.

In 1976 an Englishman managed to walk 12 yards on stilts 22 feet 9 inches high.

William III, Queen Anne, George I, George II, George III and George IV all died on Saturday.

The average summer temperature of the Red Sea is 35°C.

The first time Christopher Columbus ever set foot on mainland America was on his third voyage in 1498. This was in Venezuela, at a point called Cristobal Colon.

It is not legal to smoke a cigar in Denmark.

On the Island of Rhodes there is a place called 'The Valley of the Butterflies' where thousands of butterflies are attracted and are so thick that they darken the landscape.

Four English boy scouts shined 707 pairs of shoes in 18 hours.

The first motor cycle was invented by Gottlieb Daimler in Germany in 1885.

The Red Jacket, a clipper sailing from New York to Liverpool crossed the Atlantic in 13 days in 1854, and set a speed record that was never broken.

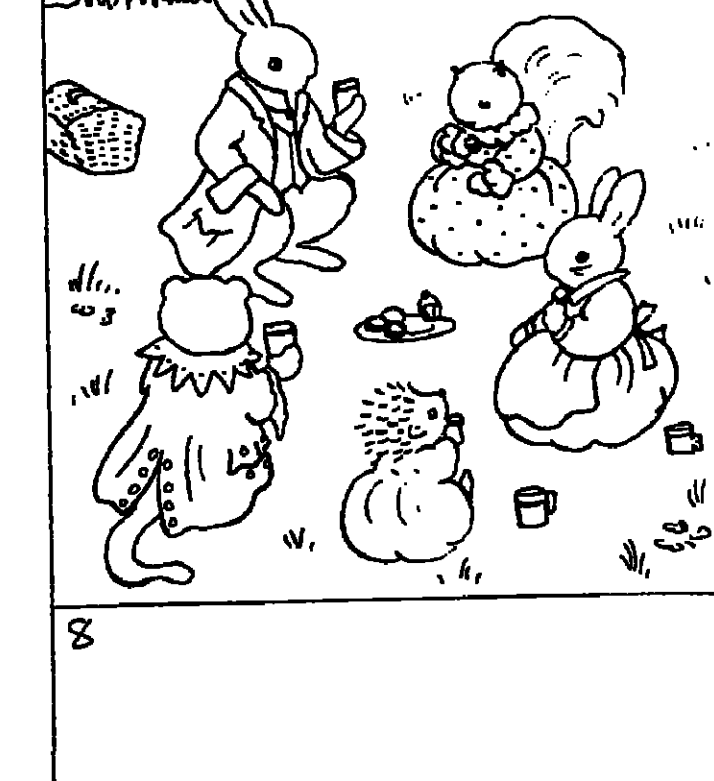
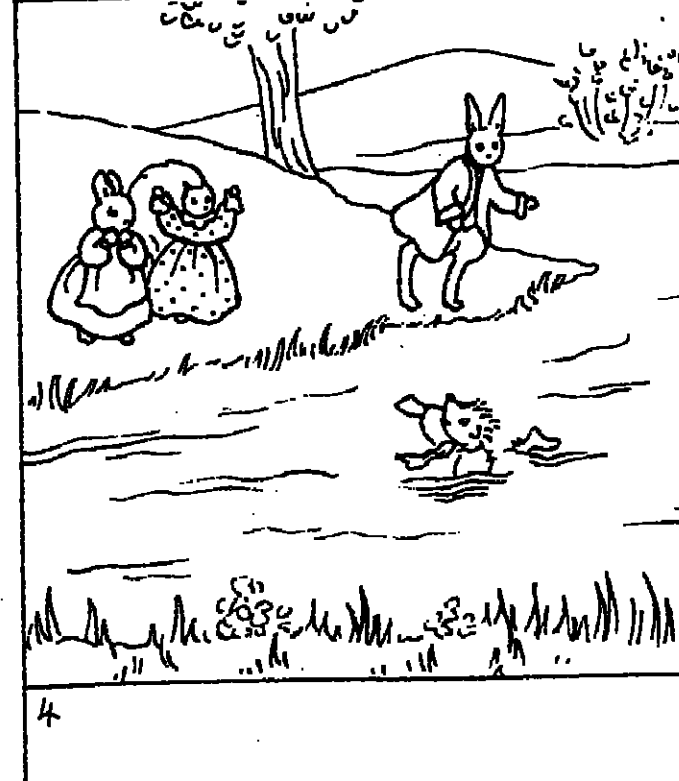
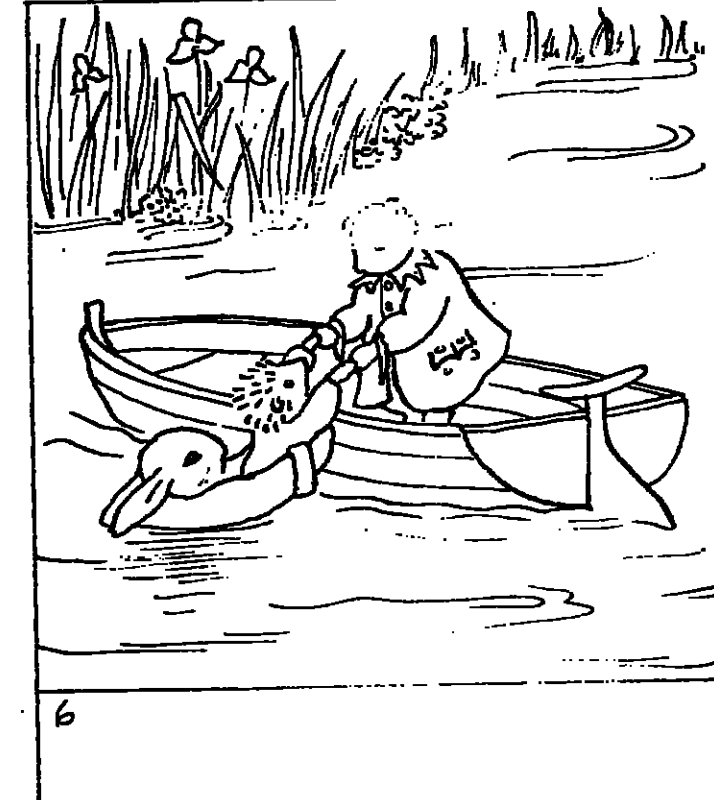
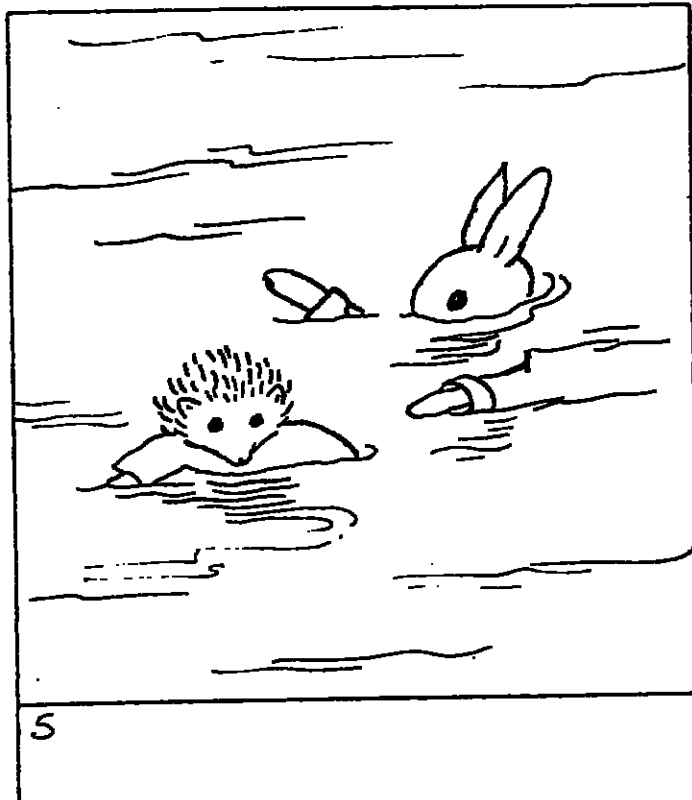
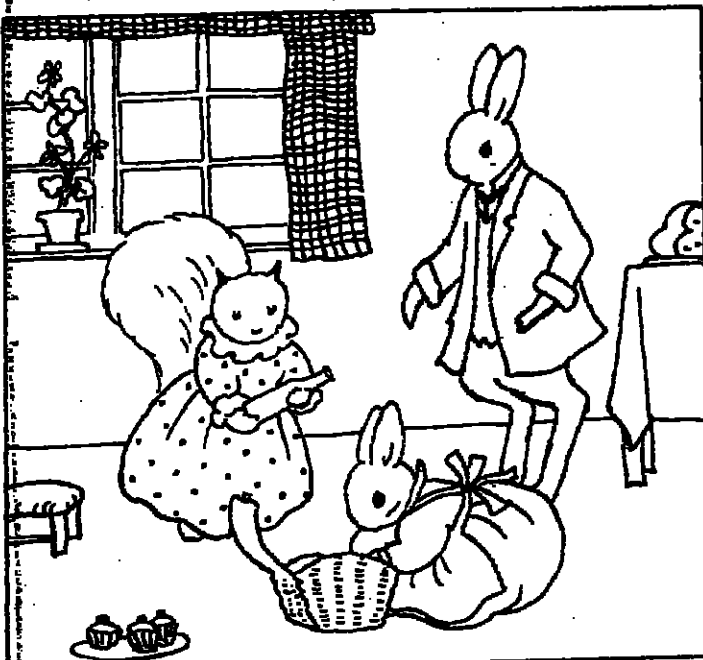
Amy Semple MacPherson, an American spiritualist and evangelist was buried with a live telephone in her coffin.

In 1940 338, 226 British and French troops were evacuated from Dunkirk.

The monkey's dinner is a South American nut that explodes when it is ripe.

## Storytime

Write or tell a story which goes with these pictures. You can colour in the pictures too!









## Yankees rally for victory

NEW YORK, April 16, (AP) Rick Cerone and Steve Sax hit RBI singles in the eighth inning as the New York Yankees rallied for three runs against Texas relief ace Jeff Russell and beat the Rangers 3-1 yesterday.

Charlie Hough limited the Yankees to just two singles and took a 1-0 lead into the eighth. But after Hough issued a leadoff walk to Jesse Barfield, Russell relieved.

Russell (0-1), threw a wild pitch that sent Barfield to second and threw wildly to third on Roberto Kelly's bunt for an error, putting runners at first and third. Cerone's bloop singles tied the score before pinch-hitter Wayne Tolleson sacrificed the runner to second and third. Sax singled home the go-ahead run and Alvaro Espinoza hit a sacrifice fly.

Eric Plunk (2-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the victory and Dave Righetti worked the ninth for his second save. Steve Buschel's home run in the second was the only scoring until the Yankees rallied.

**Tigers 6, Orioles 4**  
Mark Salas hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, giving Dan Petry his first win in a Detroit uniform in more than two seasons.

With the score tied at 4-4, Gary Ward singled off Jay Aldrich (1-1) to bring on Joe Price. Juan Bautista eventually relieved Price, and Salas hit a 1-1 pitch with two outs into the right field stands.

Petry, who relieved Jeff Robinson to start the seventh, gave up one hit in two innings. Petry, who gave way to saver Mike Henneman, last won for the Tigers on Sept. 15, 1987, and was traded to California after that season.

### Results

American League			
N.Y. Yankees	3	Texas	1
Detroit	6	Baltimore	4
C.W. Sox	4	Cleveland	3
Toronto	5	Kansas City	4
California	4	Minnesota	1
Oakland	3	Seattle	0
Milwaukee	3	Boston	1

National League			
Philadelphia	4	St. L. Cardinals	0
Pittsburgh	4	Chicago Cubs	3
Cin. Reds	13	Atlanta Braves	6
L.A. Dodgers	5	H. Astros	4
S.D. Padres	4	S.F. Giants	3
Mt. Expos	3	N.Y. Mets	1

Standings			
American League			
	W	L	Pct
N.Y. Yankees	3	1	.750
Boston	2	2	.500
Toronto	2	3	.400
Pittsburgh	2	4	.333
Baltimore	2	4	.333
Cleveland	2	4	.333
Milwaukee	1	3	.250

West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Oakland	5	1	.833
C.W. Sox	4	2	.667
California	2	2	.500
Texas	2	4	.333
Kansas City	2	4	.333
Minnesota	2	4	.333
Seattle	1	3	.250

National League			
	W	L	Pct
Chicago Cubs	4	2	.667
Pittsburgh	3	3	.500
Pittsburgh	3	3	.500
St. Louis	3	3	.500
Montreal	3	3	.500
N.Y. Mets	2	4	.333

West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Cincinnati	5	0	1.000
L.A. Dodgers	4	3	.571
San Francisco	4	4	.500
Atlanta	2	4	.333
Houston	1	5	.167

## Stewart retains Heritage Classic crown

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. April 16, (Reuters) Payne Stewart rolled in a 25-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff yesterday to repeat as champion of the \$1 million Heritage Classic.

The victory was worth \$180,000 to Stewart, who last year was five strokes better than the rest of the field at the Harbour Town Golf Links.

This time, Stewart had to go two extra holes to secure his victory after he finished regulation tied with Larry Mize and Steve Jones at eight-under-par 27.

Stewart shot an even-par 71 for the final round, just missing a birdie putt at the 72nd hole that would have won it for him in regulation. Mize birdied 18 to complete a sparkling 66, while Jones muffed a short birdie putt to finish at 69 and create the playoff.

On the first playoff hole, the par-3 17th, Jones was eliminated when he pushed his 6-iron shot far to the right of the green, while Stewart and Mize both made birdie to move on to the par-4 18th hole.

Stewart's birdie miss on the final hole of regulation helped him secure victory after all.

His sudden-death birdie putt on the 18th green was a bit longer than the one that slid by to the left on the 72nd hole, but on very close to the same line. This time he rammed the ball straight in.

Mize came agonizingly close to sinking his 20-footer but mis-

## World No. 1 completes triumphant return Graf sweeps aside Sanchez



Graf crushed Sanchez

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. April 16, (Reuters) Steffi Graf completed a triumphant return to competition by routing Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain 6-1 6-0 yesterday to win the \$350,000 Amelia Island women's clay court tennis tournament.

Graf, coming back after being sidelined for two months with a broken thumb, needed only 47 minutes to win the final of her first tournament since the injury. It was the West German's 37th consecutive victory and put her just 17 away from Martina Navratilova's all-time record streak of 74.

Sanchez Vicario, whose win over Graf in the 1989 French Open final was the West German's last defeat, beat defending champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina in straight sets in the semifinals but was overwhelmed by the world number one.

"Steffi was playing unbelievable," the third-seeded Sanchez Vicario said. "She was hitting winners and making no errors. The next time I play Steffi, it will

be different. At least, I hope so." Graf, who had struggled past Canadian Carling Bassett-Seguso in the quarterfinals, never let Sanchez Vicario into the match.

Even Graf was impressed by her dominance of the Spanish clay court specialist.

"I approached this match a little more intelligently," Graf said. "I didn't go for too much and made very few mistakes. She just couldn't do anything. For me to win against a clay-court player like Arantxa 6-1 6-0, I think that's quite remarkable."

Sanchez fought through two deuces to hold serve in the second game of the match. She did not win another game.

Graf faced one break point in the third game, saving it with a backhand winner. In her other six service games, Graf allowed just six points. Sanchez Vicario, by contrast, struggled on her serve and was broken twice at love.

The Spaniard's spirit might have been broken in the first

game of the second set. Trying to gain an early edge and climb back into it, she rushed the net but Graf's passing shots were on target. On break point, after exchanging vicious baseline forehands, Graf ended the point with a cross-court winner.

Sanchez Vicario froze, looked into the crowd and rolled her eyes. Graf was back.

Graf said she had no physical problems during the tournament and was happy to encounter a few tough matches.

"That's important with Paris (French Open) coming up," Graf said. "In the prior two matches, whatever I tried, it was always the wrong shots. I just had to get more relaxed. I knew what I was doing was wrong. I just played more economically. I was patient."

While Graf reinforced her position as world number one, today's rankings will see a change in the top five.

Monica Seles of Yugoslavia will move up a spot to number three.

## Waldner and Nemes knocked out

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, April 16, (Reuters) Top singles seeds Jan-Ove Waldner and Oleg Nemes were both beaten at the European Table Tennis Championships yesterday.

France's Jean-Philippe Gatien saved six matchpoints to knock world champion Waldner out of the quarterfinals while West Germany's Nemes was beaten in the fourth round by Dutchwoman Gerda Keen, ranked only 81st in the world.

The 10th-seeded Gatien, impressively quick and strong player, reached a semifinal date with former World Cup winner Andrzej Grubba of Poland by beating Waldner 13-21 20-22 21-14 26-24 22-20.

"It was hard to lose after being 20-16 up in the fifth game," said Waldner who helped Sweden defend their team title here last week. Gatien also saved two matchpoints in the fourth game.

But Waldner said: "I can't be disappointed with myself because I didn't play badly on anyone of my matchpoints — he just played very well on the important points and

that was enough." Earlier, the Swede had brushed aside West German team silver medalist Georg Zsolt Bocht in four games in the fourth round.

French coach Michel Gadat was delighted with his charge, who has high hopes of beating Grubba in today's semifinals after defeating him on his way to winning the West German Open last month.

"I knew that physically and technically he was ready," Gadat said. "He has beaten Waldner twice before but only when Waldner was not playing so well. Today he beat the real Waldner."

Former European top-12 tournament winner Nemes, who had looked a good prospect for the women's singles crown here after sailing through her opening matches without dropping a game lost 20-22 19-21 21-12 18-21.

But Keen, not picked for the Dutch team which took a bronze medal here, went out in the quarterfinal to sixth-seeded Gabriella Wirth. The Hungarian won 11-21 21-13 21-16 21-23 22-20.

Defending champion Mikael Appelgren became the only one of the victorious Swedish team to make the last four in the men's event when he beat English number one Alan Cooke 21-19 21-15 18-21 21-13.

Appelgren was unhappy at the prospect of having to play his semifinal against West German Joerg Roskopf early on Easter Monday morning. "A 9.45 semifinal is too early for me and for the spectators who will want to sleep in," he said.

Roskopf ended Wang Yansheng's hopes of becoming the first Chinese-born European champion, beating him in four games.

Wang, registered as a Norwegian and playing as a professional in West Germany, had been a dangerous unseeded floater, beating former champion Jorgen Persson of Sweden in the second round.

But Yong Tu, who plays for Switzerland, kept the Asian hopes alive in the women's singles by thrashing second-seeded Hungarian Csilla Batorfi 21-16 21-15 21-19 to reach the semifinals.

## WPBSA hits out at Higgins

SHEFFIELD, England, April 16, (Reuters) Snooker's governing body is to take disciplinary action against Alex Higgins after he alleged corruption in the sport and was said to have hit a press officer.

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) said yesterday: "At a lengthy after-match press conference last evening, Alex Higgins made quite a few disparaging statements about the game of snooker and the individuals connected with it."

"Taking into account the statements and the complaint already received of an alleged assault on the press officer, the board of the WPBSA will be taking appropriate action to invoke the disciplinary procedure... as soon as possible."

The WPBSA could fine or reprimand Higgins but tougher action such as suspension or expulsion from the game seem likely in the light of the player's record.

Higgins was unrepentant yesterday about his remarks although he appeared to backtrack about his declaration that he was quitting the sport.

The volatile Northern Irishman, dumped out of the world championships in the first round, said he would be "more than happy" to play events if invited.

At an emotional news conference on Saturday he had denounced the sport as "the most corrupt in the world."

"The Hurricane (Higgins' nickname) doesn't want to be part of this tripe any more. I hate the game. I abhor it," he said.

His manager Doug Perry said Higgins had spoken to him yesterday and he stands by the statements he made in Sheffield concerning the current state of snooker.

Four years ago Higgins was fined £12,000 (\$19,680) and suspended for five tournaments for butting an official.

## Gomez wins twice at Barcelona GP

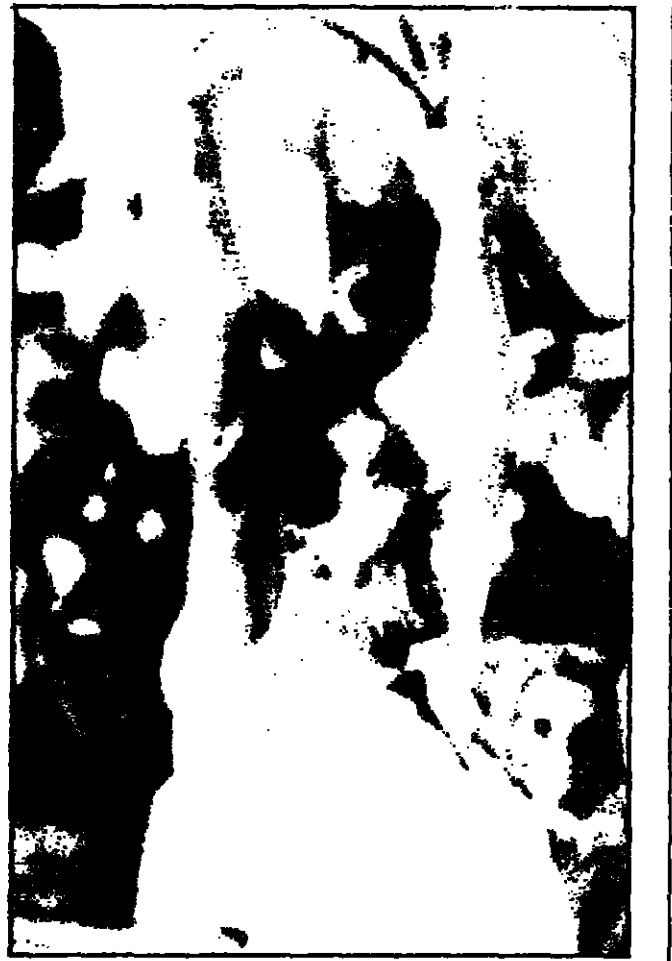
BARCELONA, Spain, April 16, (Reuters) Ecuador's Andres Gomez went one better than last year when he not only retained his singles crown at the Barcelona Tennis Grand Prix yesterday but also won the doubles.

Fourth-seed Gomez needed five sets to defeat Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-0 7-6 (7-3) 3-6 6-6 6-2 but then returned to the court with Javier Sanchez Vicario of Spain to take the doubles crown.

It took them two arduous sets to down Spanish pair Emilio Sanchez Vicario, Javier's brother, and Sergio Casal 7-6 (7-1) 7-5. "I had asked our holy lady of Fatima to give me this victory," the fourth seed Gomez said after beating 10th seed Perez-Roldan.

He said he had made a pilgrimage to the holy Roman Catholic shrine in Fatima after playing in the Estoril Open last week and planned to give \$7,000 of the \$70,000 prize money to fund a refuge for homeless children in Ecuador.

Gomez, who said the strong wind made him lose his concentration for much of the match, received a warning for swearing when one of his strayed out of the court in the fourth set.



Gomez improved on last year's performance

## Celtics outclass Knicks again

BOSTON, April 16, (AP) Reggie Lewis scored a season-high 34 points yesterday, including six after the score was tied at 91, to lead the Boston Celtics to a 101-94 victory over New York.

It was the Knicks' 24th consecutive loss in Boston. The Celtics won their sixth game in a row and moved within 1 1/2 games of Atlantic Division leader Philadelphia. The teams meet next Sunday in the final day of the regular season.

New York, whose last victory at Boston Garden was Feb. 29, 1984, got 23 points from Patrick Ewing and 20 from Maurice Cheeks. Robert Parish had 15 points and 14 rebounds for Boston while Larry Bird

had 17 points, 17 rebounds and 13 assists although he hit only five of 22 shots.

### Jazz 103, Timberwolves 90

Karl Malone scored 32 points, giving him 10,001 in his four-year career, as Utah took a two-game lead in the Midwest Division. Both Utah and second-place San Antonio have four games left.

Minnesota became the second team to draw 1 million fans in an NBA season. The crowd of 40,415 at the Metrodome put the Expansion Timberwolves at 1,023,021. They need 43,485 in tomorrow's night's home finale to top the League-record 1,066,505 set by the 1987-88 Detroit Pistons.

Results			
Boston	101	New York	94
Utah	103	Minnesota	90
L.A. Lakers	113	Houston	102

Standings			
Eastern Conference			
	W	L	Pct
Philadelphia	51	25	.666
X-Boston	49	29	.628

Western Conference			
	W	L	Pct
X-San Antonio	52	26	.667
Dallas	43	35	.551
Denver	39	39	.500
Houston	39	39	.500
Charlotte	26	56	.317
Portland	18	60	.231

## Player triumphs on PGA event

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida, April 16, (AP) Gary Player survived two rain delays and a late double-bogey yesterday and coasted to his third Professional Golfers' Association Seniors Championship as an anticipated shootout between Hall of Famers fizzled.

Player had more trouble with mother nature than with his playing partners, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino, in winning this event for the third time in five years. His previous wins came in 1986 and 1988.

Player outlasted both delays, the last of them for 1 hour and 20 minutes that threatened to delay overnight the completion of the tournament.

At that point, it was nothing but a formality anyway. The only question was not who would win but whether they could finish before darkness.

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## Woosnam takes third round lead

sed to the left to give Stewart the victory.

Greg Norman of Australia and Steve Pate tied for fourth place just one stroke out of the playoff. Norman missed the final green, but his chip shot nearly went in for a birdie, hanging just outside the lip of the cup.

Stewart, the PGA champion, said he was surprised that his even-par round was good enough to keep him in the running, with the likes of Norman, Mize and Jones chasing him.

Despite a distraction by a Tour official Britain's Ian Woosnam fired a third round 67 to take the lead in the Cannes Open golf

tournament yesterday.

Playing 36 holes because of rain on Saturday, Woosnam followed up a morning round 72 with a 67 to move eight under par on 208.

He leads by a stroke from Zimbabwe's Mark McNulty, the 1988 winner, who birdied four of the last six holes for a 69, and Britain's Mark Roe, who had seven birdies in a best of the day 66.

Woosnam maintained he would have had a 66 but for three putts on the eighth, his 17th. He said: "PGA administrator Michael Haazer was sitting there watching me but just as

I got over my first putt he started up his buggy. It broke my concentration and I three-putted to drop my only stroke of the round."

The Welshman had holed from 120 yards at the 18th. McNulty sparked his late run by chipping in from 10 yards off the green at the fourth — his 13th — then sank putts at 15 feet and 20 feet for more birdies.

Roe would have caught Woosnam but for three putts on the 17th when he was distracted by a spectator. He also missed a putt of three feet for a birdie at the ninth.



Stewart collected \$180,000



Woosnam ahead of the field

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## SPORTS

## Real retain Spanish League title

MADRID, April 16, (Reuters): Real Madrid clinched their fifth consecutive Spanish League soccer title yesterday after drawing 0-0 at Real Valladolid.

With four games to go until the end of the season, Real, who have scored 94

goals in 34 matches, cannot be caught. Real are on 56 points, nine clear of Atletico Madrid, who beat Tenerife 2-0. Third-placed Barcelona have 46 points after a 4-0 win at against lowly Cadiz. Fourth-placed Valencia are also

on 46 after beating bottom club Rayo Vallecano 4-1 on Saturday. Real took the title in a lacklustre game against Valladolid who seemed happy not to lose. Atletico's goals against Tenerife came

from Brazilians Donto Gama (75 minutes) and B. Iltazar de Moris (79th). Rayo Vallecano, now sure to be relegated, led 1-0 but three goals in seven minutes set Valencia on their way.

## Jahangir aims for 9th British Open title

LONDON, April 16, (Reuters): World number one Jahangir Khan is just five matches away from fulfilling his lifelong ambition of winning the British Open squash championship for a record ninth successive time.

The Pakistani has not been beaten in the sport's most prestigious tournament since he lost in the 1981 final to Australian Geoff Hunt, whose record eight victories Jahangir equaled last year.

Jahangir went unbeaten for an astonishing five years and seven months after his defeat by Hunt before losing to New Zealander Ross Norman, whom he is scheduled to meet in the Open.

England number nine Jamie Hickox is Jahangir's first round opponent when the top players go into action on Wednesday, but his most difficult match in his half of the draw is likely to be against Australian Chris Dittmar, who he is projected to meet in the semifinals.

Dittmar, the number three seed, beat Jahangir in both the world individual and World Team Championships at the end of last year, but has been going through troubled times both on and off court this year.

Jahangir will be relieved that Chris Robertson and Rodney Martin, two other Australians who have both beaten him already in 1990, are in the opposite half of the draw.

Robertson, ranked fourth and fifth in the world respectively, are seeded to meet in the quarterfinals, with the winner almost certain to take on Jansher Khan, the Pakistani who won the world title for the second time in October.

Surprisingly, the younger Pakistani has never won the British Open title but, should he overcome the very considerable challenge from Robertson or Martin, his remarkable athleticism and superior fitness will represent a very serious threat to Jahangir's domination.

New Zealand's Susan Devoy is seeking her seventh consecutive women's title and is scheduled for a semifinal meeting with Lisa Opie, the Briton she has beaten in two finals.

Opie was runner up on four occasions during the 1980s, but the seeding predict that Devoy's opponent in the 1990 final will be Australian Danielle Drady, the vastly improved girlfriend of Rodney Martin.

Drady is expected to come through to a semifinal against Martine Le Moignan, Opie's Channel Islands compatriot, who surprisingly beat Devoy in the World Championship final in the Netherlands last year.

But the presence of a number of top players seeded outside the top eight, such as England trio Lucy Soutter, Suzanne Horner and Alison Cumings, suggests the women's draw may offer more than its usual quota of upsets.

## Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, April 16, (Reuters): Results of first-round National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoff games yesterday: Adams Division, Hartford Whalers 3, Boston Bruins 2 (best-of-seven series tied 3-3); Montreal Canadiens 5, Buffalo Sabres 2 (Canadians win best-of-seven series 4-2); Patrick Division, Washington Capitals 3, New Jersey Devils 2 (Capitals win best-of-seven series 4-2).

## W. Indies take 186-run lead

## England lose Larkins

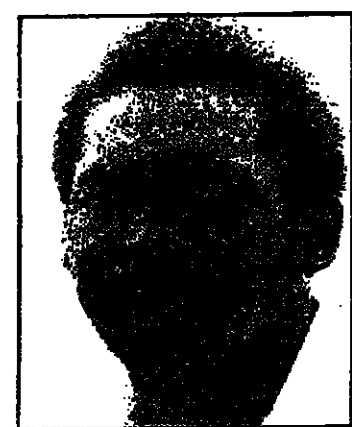
ST JOHNS, April 16, (Reuters): England took the last nine West Indies wickets for only 89 runs and restricted the home side's lead on the first innings to 186 after a much bigger deficit looked certain.

West Indies made 446 and in 5.5 overs before stumps on the third day of the 5th Cable and Wireless Test got a vital breakthrough when Wayne Larkins was bowled for 10 by Curtly Ambrose.

In light that was not fit for play Larkins clearly failed to pick up a ball which hit his bat before deflecting on to the leg stump. Gladstone Small came to the wicket as nightwatchman but did not have to face a ball as the light was offered to the batsmen.

With West Indies cruising at 357 for one, the second wicket stand of 59, in 16 overs was broken thanks to a magnificent catch by Jack Russell to dismiss Richie Richardson. Diving to his right the England wicketkeeper got a glove to a half chance. Richardson going for 34 and providing Devon Malcolm with his first victim since the third Test.

In the following over, David Capel bowled Carl Hooper off an inside edge for one as he groped forward and left his gate open. The arrival of Vivian Richards, in his 11th Test making him the most capped West Indian ahead of Clive Lloyd, was greeted with tumultuous adulation by his home crowd, but they were stunned in silence when he was out second ball.



Gordon Greenidge



Desmond Haynes

After taking a single from his first delivery, Richards attempted an extravagant back-foot drive off Malcolm but did not time the ball and was caught at extra cover by Robin Smith.

Gus Logie, dropped on 10 at first slip off Capel from the last ball before tea, went soon after the interval when Allan Lamb accepted a chance at second slip off DeFreitas, which was the only reward for England's best bowler.

When Desmond Haynes was caught behind off Small for a magnificent 167, five wickets had fallen for 27 runs. Pushing forward, Haynes got an unplayable delivery which reared off a length as well as moving away off the wicket to brush the glove on its way through to Russell. Haynes had battled with unflinching concentration for almost nine hours, hitting 23 fours and a six in his

317-ball stay. He was only 17 short of equalling his Test best of 184 against England at Lord's in 1980.

England mopped up the tail after Jeffrey Dujon had been needlessly run out after a mix-up with Eldine Baptiste, who sent him back. Rob Bailey's throw to the bowler just beat Dujon who made an attractive 25 in an hour at the crease, including a pulled six off Malcolm.

Baptiste, attempting an ambitious drive, was caught behind off Malcolm, two balls later and Ambrose, trying to pull Capel, was brilliantly caught at mid-off by DeFreitas who had to dive full length in front of him. Walsh was comprehensively bowled by Malcolm, who finished with four for 126.

Gordon Greenidge and Haynes set a new record for the West Indian first wicket, their

stand of 298 in only 74 overs being two runs more than the previous record, set by themselves against India in 1983, also on the recreation ground.

Greenidge's 149 was ended by a brilliant piece of fielding by Small, who ran him out with a direct hit from long leg as he was ambled back to the non-striker's end after Haynes had called him for a second run. Greenidge faced 207 balls, batted for 383 minutes and hit 18 fours and three sixes, the last of which was a pull off Small's first delivery of the day.

## Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings 280 (L. Bishop five for 84)

WEST INDIES first innings (overnight 228-0)  
G. Greenidge run out ..... 167  
D. Haynes c Russell b Malcolm ..... 167  
R. Richardson c Russell b Malcolm ..... 34  
C. Hooper b Capel ..... 1  
V. Richards c Smith b Malcolm ..... 1  
A. Logie c Lamb b DeFreitas ..... 15  
J. Dujon run out ..... 25  
E. Baptiste c Russell b Malcolm ..... 9  
C. Ambrose c DeFreitas b Capel ..... 5  
I. Bishop not out ..... 14  
C. Walsh b Malcolm ..... 8  
Extras (lb 5 nb 13) ..... 18  
Total ..... 446

Fall of wickets: 1-298 2-357 3-358 4-359 5-382 6-384 7-415 8-417 9-433  
Bowling: Small 31-3-123-1, Malcolm 34.5-2-126-4, Capel 28-1-118-2, DeFreitas 27-4-74-1  
ENGLAND second innings  
A. Stewart not out ..... 4  
W. Larkins b Ambrose ..... 10  
G. Small not out ..... 0  
Extras (lb 2) ..... 2  
Total (for one wicket) ..... 16  
Fall of wicket: 1-16  
Bowling to date: Bishop 3-0-6-0, Ambrose 2-5-1-8-1.

## Fiorentina and Werder look for Cup win

PERUGIA, Italy, April 16, (UPI): Italy's Fiorentina and Werder Bremen of West Germany both look to victory in tomorrow's UEFA Cup second leg semifinal to salvage a poor League season.

With only two League matches to play, Fiorentina still risks being one of the four teams relegated to the Second Division, although its position has improved in the past couple of weeks, with the Florence team now seventh from bottom of First Division standings.

It was because of the relegation threat that Fiorentina sought and obtained UEFA agreement to play the match against Werder tomorrow instead of Wednesday. This will give Fiorentina an extra day to recover before meeting Internazionale in Milan next Sunday.

Werder also is going through a bad patch and has sunk to seventh in Bundesliga standings after hoping to challenge for the title.

Tomorrow's UEFA semifinal clash is being played in Perugia because Fiorentina's home stadium is still undergoing reconstruction for the World Cup in June. Fiorentina has had to play all its UEFA matches and several League games in Perugia.

## Masters champion

VIRGINIA WATER, England, April 16, (AP): US Masters champion Nick Faldo of Britain will return to the European Golf Tour later this month in Spain. The PGA European Tour said yesterday that Faldo would play in the Peugeot Spanish Open in Madrid April 26-29.

## Anfield dead remembered

LIVERPOOL, England, April 16, (Reuters): Tens of thousands gathered in Liverpool's Anfield Stadium yesterday for a memorial service for 95 soccer fans killed a year ago in Britain's worst sporting disaster.

Church leaders, footballers, families and friends were among more than 30,000 who stood in silence in memory of those crushed to death or suffocated at a Liverpool versus Nottingham Forest match at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield.

Liverpool's Anglican bishop David Sheppard told the crowd and a national live

television audience he had been impressed at how the city coped with the disaster.

"I was proud of the whole community of Merseyside and of friends of Liverpool far afield. Messages of sympathy came from all over the country and all over the world, people saying they were with us," he said.

Children gained 95 roses into the Anfield ground.

The crowd, many of them still grieving, joined in prayers and hymns and sang Liverpool's football anthem "you'll never walk alone" before dedication of an eternal

flame in remembrance of the dead.

More than £12 million (\$20 million) has been raised in an appeal to help families of victims cope with their bereavement.

Widespread criticism was levelled at the police on duty at Hillsborough for opening a gate to relieve crowding outside the stadium, which led to a massive crush inside the ground.

An official inquiry into the tragedy criticised football authorities for complacency and outlined a series of recommendations on crowd control and ground safety.

## Havelange praises Italy

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 16, (AP): Fifa President Joao Havelange has praised Italy's preparation for the World Cup tournament and said he was not concerned by delays in finishing work on some host stadiums.

"The Cup in Italy has everything necessary to become the event of the century. The care with which the Italians treat soccer convinces me of that," said the chief of the international federation of association football.

Speaking with the Rio newspaper O Globo, Havelange said the Italians had improved rail connections, communications for the tournament in their country in June and July.

"I'm absolutely certain everything will be in perfect order by late May," he said, noting that work had been completed on some stadiums where games will be held.

Havelange also said he favoured China hosting the tournament early next century. "Imagine the party in a country with 1 billion inhabitants," he told the newspaper, which published the interview yesterday.

Havelange also said France had a shot at sponsoring the 1998 World Cup but that Brazil's dream of holding that year's tournament — expressed by new President Fernando Collor de Mello — was unrealistic.

"Which Brazilian stadiums have conditions to accommodate thousands of journalists and to provide comfort to fans? Anyone entering the bathroom at a stadium in Brazil is horrified ... it's utopian for Brazil to want to host the Cup," said Havelange, who is Brazilian.

## Japan reach final round

TOKYO, April 16, (AP): Japan, the Netherlands, Yugoslavia and Sweden scored victories yesterday to advance to the final round of the preliminary competition for the men's World Volleyball Championships.

In Group A competition in Tokyo, Japan beat East Germany 15-3, 7-15, 15-7, 15-10, the Netherlands beat Puerto Rico 15-5, 15-2, 15-9, and Poland beat Iraq 15-6, 15-8, 15-7.

In Group B competition in Gifu in western Japan, Yugoslavia beat Algeria 17-15, 12-13, 15-4, 15-2, Sweden beat Taiwan 15-2, 15-8, 15-4, and Spain beat China 15-9, 15-5, 15-11.

Spain stands at 2-1, China at 1-2 and Algeria and Taiwan are 0-3.

Following each group's five-day round-robin tournament, the top three teams from Group A and B will compete in a final round in Tokyo April 20-22 to decide the remaining three berths in the World Championships in Brazil in October.

## Waldegard wins Kenya Safari Rally for 4th time

NAIROBI, April 16, (Reuters): Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden, driving a Toyota Celica, overcame exceptionally muddy conditions to win the Kenya Safari Rally for the fourth time today.

Jabu Kankkunen of Finland finished second, 38 minutes behind Waldegard in a Lancia Delta Integrale and Mikael Ericsson of Sweden, in another Toyota, came in third, nearly two hours behind the winner.

Waldegard, winner in 1977, 1984 and 1986, said: "It was the toughest rally ever because of the weather. The roads were more mud than ever, but funnily enough, there was not as much rain as expected."

Waldegard has competed 17 times in this six-day 4,000 kms rally, one of the toughest in the world, and said he planned to return next year.

"I would love to come back from another rally. Why not take the record for the most wins?" he said.

Kankkunen said he was just happy to have finished — only 10 of the 58 starters survived.

Spaniard Carlos Sainz, making his Safari debut in a Toyota Celica, was fourth and Kenjiro Shinozuka of Japan fifth in a Mitsubishi Galant.

The best-placed Subaru Legacy, making its first World Championship appearance, was sixth and driven by Kenyan Jim Heather Hayes.

Four Legacies dropped out because of mechanical problems, mainly associated with overheating.

Heather Hayes himself came close to disaster yesterday when a fire broke out under the bonnet of his car. The blaze was caused by a split oil pipe. The crew extinguished the fire and fitted a replacement part dropped from a plane.

Rudi Stohl of Austria in an Audi 90 Quattro passed Kenya's Patrick Njiru in a Subaru Legacy on the final 365 kms stage from Nakuru in the Rift Valley to Nairobi to finish seventh.

But Njiru, the top-placed black Kenyan driver and a local hero, was assured of a big wel-



Waldegard tackles one of the stages. (Reuters wirephoto)



Kankkunen with a Masai tribesman.

come for managing eighth position. ■ World champion Massimo Biasion's bid for a hat-trick of Safari Rally wins ended yesterday when he was forced out of the event by mechanical trouble.

The Italian Lancia driver failed to reach the Kenyan control, just a quarter of the way into the tough 657-km leg from Eldoret by the time it closed and was time-barred.

A Lancia official said Biasion had been experiencing severe engine problems after passing Kopkei, just 16 km into the stage through the Kerio Valley.

- Results**
1. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden) Toyota Celica GT4 eight hours, 39 minutes 11 seconds.
  2. Juhani Kankkunen (Finland) Lancia Delta Integrale 9:17.23
  3. Mikael Ericsson (Sweden) Toyota Celica GT4 11:26.58
  4. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota Celica GT4 12:58.42
  5. Kenjiro Shinozuka (Japan) Mitsubishi Galant 15:11.31
  6. Jim Heather-Hayes (Kenya) Subaru Legacy 15:12.40
  7. Rudi Stohl (Austria) Audi 90 Quattro 17:49.58
  8. Patrick Njiru (Kenya) Subaru Legacy 18:04.51

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